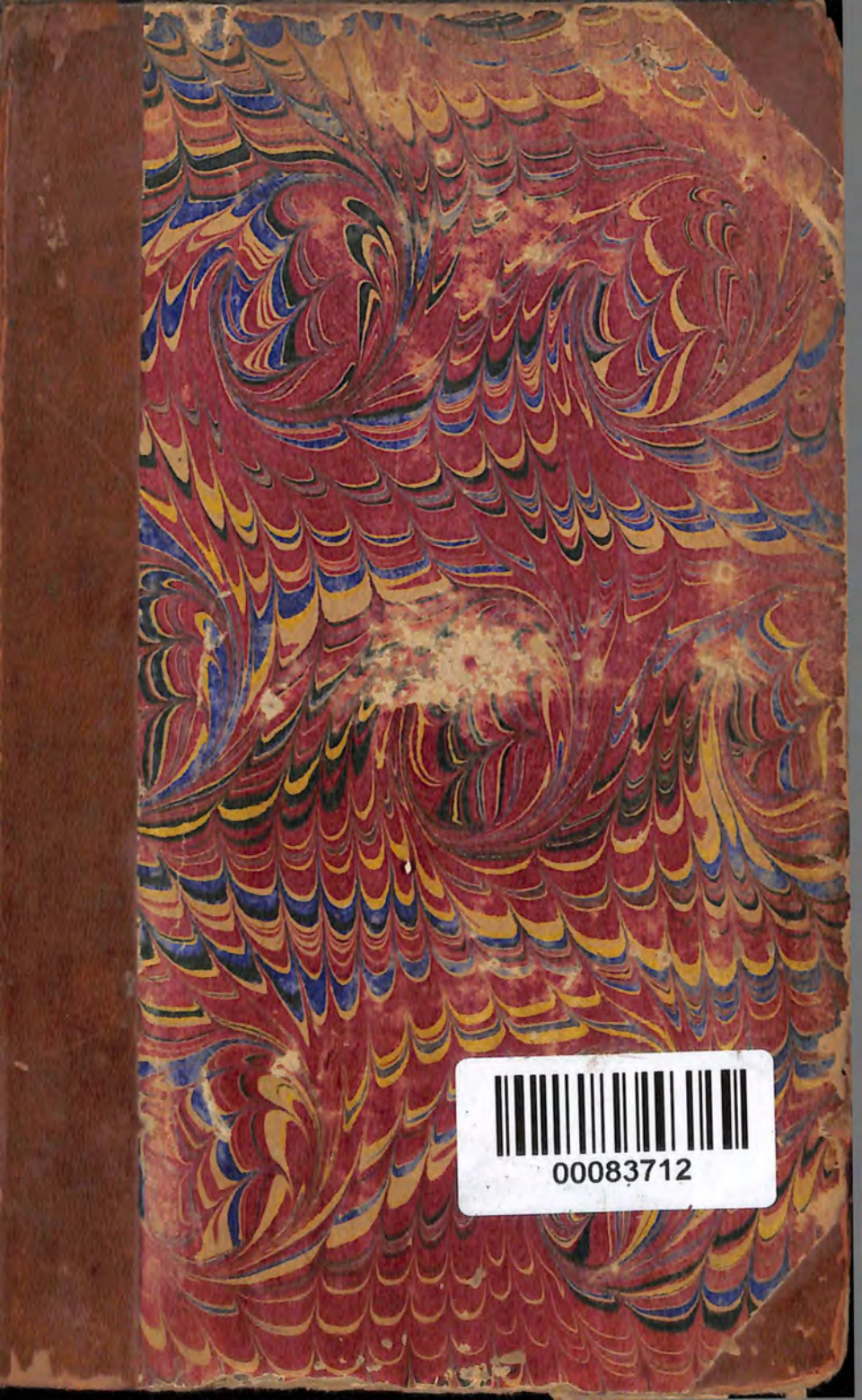
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JOURNAL

OF

TRAVELS IN THE SEAT OF WAR,

DURING THE LAST

TWO CAMPAIGNS OF RUSSIA AND TURKEY;

INTENDED AS AN ITINERARY

THROUGH THE SOUTH OF RUSSIA, THE CRIMEA, GEORGIA, AND THROUGH PERSIA, KOORDISTAN, AND ASIA MINOR, TO CONSTANTINOPLE.

WITH MAP EXPRESSLY DRAWN UP, AND ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE AUTHOR'S TOUR.

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BY

T. B. ARMSTRONG.

LONDON:

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TO

ROBERT BARCLAY ALLARDICE, Esq.

OF URY.

IF Dedications should be addressed where obligations are due, to whom could I apply better than to him, whose family has fostered my early days?

Accept, then, Sir, this slight tribute of gratitude, which, I hope, will make up for its want of erudition by its correctness; and, believe me,

SIR,

With great respect,

Your ever obliged Servant,

THE AUTHOR.

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INTRODUCTION.

IN publishing this Journal, I am aware of the censure I am liable to, when the style of writing is considered; but putting forth no pretensions to elegance, my principal object was that of giving a minute account of the roads, the distances between the different post-stations, halting-places, &c., which I imagined might be of use to the modern traveller, particularly in a country where the inhabitants are kept in a state of ignorance, and whose information seldom extends further than the places in which they reside.

In the Itinerary will be found various routes over land to India—this journey

was formerly considered a most tedious and hazardous undertaking; now, however, the case is different; and we may soon expect to hear of travellers proceeding to Bombay with as much facility as they do now to Paris. The reasons I have before stated will, I hope, shield me from the imputation of presumption, and be a sufficient apology for any grammatical errors that may be found in the composition.

In the year 1828, I accompanied two gentlemen from England, who contemplated proceeding to Constantinople and Syria, should the war between the Russians and Turks allow of their going by way of the Balkan; — from unforeseen circumstances, however, that route was changed, as will be seen in the Journal.

From Calais (by way of Lille and Brussels) we proceeded through the most in-

teresting parts of the Netherlands; and having visited Spa, Aix-la-Chapelle, and Cologne, we travelled up the Rhine to Manheim, from whence, taking Heidelberg and Baden in our way, we crossed the Black Forest to Stuttgard, and joined the Danube at Ulm, two stages beyond which place we came to Hockstadt.

In the *hôtel-de-ville* of this place there is an old plan of the Battle of Blenheim. Between Dillengen and Donawert we turned off the road to the village from which the before-mentioned victory derived its name; there is an extensive view of the surrounding country seen from the tower of the church, and, according to the plan, travellers may distinctly trace the positions of the two armies. Whilst constructing the post-road, in 1780, there was dug up a great quantity of the bones of those slain in the battle.

From this we continued along the Danube, frequently crossing and recrossing it, to Ratisbonne and Passau; here we purchased a boat, in which we embarked our calash, and descended the river, through the most splendid scenery, to Lintz* and Vienna.

* On our way to this place we visited the ruins of an old castle, romantically situated upon the towering rock of Thyrenstein, on the left bank of the river, which is celebrated as having been the fortress in which Richard Cœur-de-Lion was confined, when returning from the Crusades.

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from
VIENNA through the Crimea to TEHRAN
and thence to
CONSTANTINOPLE
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ASIA
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JOURNAL, &c.

CHAPTER I.

Vienna—Policy—Laufsattel—Leave Vienna—Danube—Religious Procession—Harvest—Austerlitz—Carpathian Mountains—Sclavonian Drovers—Bielitz—Change of Language—Cracow—Jews—Navigation of Vistula—Our Corn Laws—Watky—Salt Mines—Bare Country—Wretched Villages—Filthy Inns—Prince Potowski—Prince Lebermersky—Cultivation—Droves of Horses—Hamburgh Inn—Limberg—Loyal Post-Master—Tax on Carriages—Brody—Jews—Paper-Money—Russian Frontier—Poderozne—Bad Roads—Jewish Tractier—Stupid Coachman—Pompous Governor—Reinforcement for the Army—Toultchin—Impositions of Jewish Post-Masters—Marriage Festival—Provisions—Steppe—Artillery—The Dnieper—Couriers—Russian Officers—Plague—Quarantine—Locusts—Windmills—Fish—Sea Fowl—Odessa.

The royal family are now at Baden; and most of the fashionables moving with the court, make Vienna out of town. This city is one of the best

regulated I ever met with; the streets in general are kept particularly clean; many of the modern-built edifices are superior in architecture, and the cathedral is an exquisite production of olden times; the very extensive and picturesque view seen from the top of the tower amply repays the dulness which at this season of the year prevails throughout the city.

The suburbs, divided into thirty-six districts, were they together, would form a much greater feature than Vienna itself; the fortifications around the city are extensive, and terminate in the Danube; but its situation is not calculated for defence, possessing no natural advantages. Since the war between Turkey and Greece, the commerce with the latter country has suffered much, and indeed is now almost at a stand. The Armenian and Greek merchants, of which there are a great number, have, in consequence, been put to many inconveniences.

It will scarcely be credited, when I state, from good authority, that, such is the policy of this government, many foreign journals are prohibited from entering the frontier. I understand that three of the French papers are not allowed, whilst one English paper pays a considerable tax before it enters this country. As to news, there is nothing to be heard, but through the medium of respectable houses of commerce; and many of the second class of traders more frequently rely on the

leading matter in our papers than otherwise, for it is well understood here, that what is found in the *Zeitung* is manufactured within the jurisdiction of the court.

17*th August*, 1828.—To-day I have delivered our cards of security to the police, and reclaimed our passports, which are signed by the Russian Ambassador, as we enter Russia on quitting Austria.

19*th*.—Having procured permission for post horses from the Chancery of Prince Metternich, and paid the *laufsattel*, we leave this evening. The *laufsattel* is what many travellers are unacquainted with; it is an order to have horses ready at every post station for the whole route intended to be taken, which must be decided upon previous to starting; indeed, from twelve to twenty-four hours' notice is requisite. As this order is forwarded by mail, one cannot make any considerable stoppages on the road, but is obliged to journey night and day. It costs a mere trifle, and is of infinite service to those who would travel speedily.

At five p. m. we left Vienna, and crossed the several branches of the Danube, over a long wooden bridge. I observed, in the neighbourhood of this immense river, that many habitations were in situations not at all secure from any overflow which might take place in this uncertain stream. We had a splendid sight of the city from the first post-house, where we changed horses. I noticed

some vineyards by the road side; the country appeared, in general, bleak and open, and the roads very sandy; night overtook us ere we arrived at the second stage; we found it very cold.

" 20*th*.—The moistening dews of night, clearing off, is replaced by a warm sun. After having passed a romantic country, of conical hills and mixture of scenery, through several villages, chiefly populated by Jews, we halted, to refresh at a little hamlet (Raygern), one stage from Brunn. The peasantry were engaged in a religious procession to a wooden cross, some short distance off, headed by the curate. The country in general appears fertile, and nearly all of it is cultivated: the farmers were busy at the harvest, and all had the appearance of active industry.

At four miles after leaving Brunn, we were shown the field of Austerlitz—it is about two miles off the high road; the surrounding country is open and bleak, yet cultivated, and abundant crops appeared every where.

Having refreshed at a village (Wischau), we resumed our journey, but night closed on us long ere we could make the fortified town of Ollmutz, where we were detained more than an hour for our passport: profound silence prevailed, which was disturbed only by the bawling of the watchmen from the steeples of the churches, and the noise produced by our carriage wheels.

21*st*.—We have been exposed to another severe

night, with heavy dews; break of day brought with it the charming scenery of the Carpathian mountains, they appeared, however, at some considerable distance; nothing could be more pleasing to the lovers of alpine beauty, than the sudden change we experienced, from open wild country to plantations and rich pasturage, which here prevail: in a word, this pretty scenery proved a Switzerland in miniature.

We refreshed at the little old-fashioned town of Freyberg, and then proceeded. On our way, we met with immense droves of cattle from Bessarabia and Moldavia, for the supply of the Vienna market. The appearance of the Sclavonian drovers is truly singular; their tunic, made partly of coarse cloth and sheep-skin, is bound round the body with a broad leathern belt, with a large brass buckle in front; their legs and neck are bare, and on their feet they wear sandals of buff leather; the hat is of a gray colour, and resembles that worn by the Tyrolese; their hair is suffered to grow to a great length, and falls in a disordered manner over their shoulders; many amongst them carry the shepherd's pipe.

We still continue in a corn country; hills, covered with pine and small lakes, were constantly breaking upon us on our right, whilst on our left appeared level fertile fields of standing corn. They grow a deal of rye and buck wheat here; the roads improve as we proceed. On arriving at the

small, but much-thronged town of Bielitz, our passports underwent examination; one stage from thence brought us into the province of Galicia, when posting became more reasonable, and where almost as soon did we experience the ill effects of being deficient in the Polish language, which is the most common in use here; we continued all night again, and benefited by a level road.

22nd.—This morning shows us a hilly country and bad roads. From the last post station, into Cracow, we had a splendid and extensive view of the surrounding country, with the city conspicuously perched on the river Vistula before us; we entered the free limits of the town, about nine a. m., having previously passed a custom-house; we then delivered up our passports, before we crossed the Bridge of Boats. Having occasion to stop on the other side of the river, we were immediately assailed by numbers of Jews, who were all, more or less, anxious to serve us in exchanging money, or offering horses for hire.

We were some time in traversing the very irregular streets of this singular old town, to one of the filthiest inns I ever met with. The major part of the population consists of Jews, who appear to have a great intercourse with Russia; a brisk commerce, as far as I could learn, is kept up.

The navigation on the Vistula has felt the ill effects in the change of our corn laws; for, as I

was told, the transportation of grain has become considerably reduced of late, by reason of the non-comprehension of our system by the agriculturists of these parts; they are driven to other markets with their produce, and have tried another method, that of distilling their grain into a spirit, called *watky*, the consumption of which is very great, especially in Russia and Poland; it appears they prefer this mode of disposing of their corn, than otherwise risking it.

Having remained here but a few hours, during which time I was busily occupied in getting our passport, and permission for post horses from the police of this *petite république*, we again commenced our route. Soon after clearing the town, and recrossing the Vistula, we encountered another custom-house. At eight miles from Cracow we arrived at the little village of Wieliczka, celebrated for its salt mines; we were anxious to have visited them immediately, and so have been able to prosecute our journey the same evening, but were prevented till the following morning: we benefited by a night's repose for the first time since leaving Vienna.

23rd.—With permission of the Governor, who sent a guide with us, we proceeded to a large building in the centre of the village, where we saw a machine, drawn by several horses, employed to bring up the waste water from the mines; we entered a small room, where from ten to fifteen

men were in attendance, with lighted lamps, to conduct us below; we were all provided with coarse linen shirts to cover our dress. The descent was by winding stairs, of very rude workmanship; whole trees were employed, it appears, in constructing them, as well as to prop up many of the shafts: we were six minutes before arriving at the first gallery, and double that time ere we could reach the bottom. The first object that attracted my attention was, six horses at work in another machine, paying up immense blocks of salt. On approaching, I found their coats to be as smooth as any English hunters, and they were in as good condition as possible. I was told they had not seen day-light for nearly fifteen years; they are never shod. We visited several chambers cut in the rock; and the chapel, in particular, presented a dazzling and singular effect, as we approached it with our lamps: the several statues are very well executed, and appear transparent.

We were shown the effect of extraordinary weight and pressure of timber, at the corner of an old mine (or shaft), exhausted many years ago: upwards of two hundred fir trees, laid crossways, had been put under the excavation, to prop the roof; no doubt, when originally put there, the whole must have occupied a solid square of twenty feet. The rock had given way, it appears, as age had decayed the timber, and now nothing is seen but the trunks of trees, crushed together, and com-

pressed into a mass of about three or four feet thick,—I could not distinguish one tree from another. We were told upwards of seven hundred men and eighteen horses are employed here at present; but, during the late war, double that number was requisite. The immense revenue derived from this wonderful production of nature is astonishing. We remained below upwards of four hours. The model at the Argyle Rooms (which I went to see, before leaving London) was a correct one, and reflects much credit on the maker, who employed two years in constructing it, during which time he descended to this laborious task twice a-day. Having visited all the most interesting parts we made our exit, and left immediately towards Limberg.

The first stage was hilly; we had the Vistula winding majestically on our left, through a most delightful country. The following two stages brought us into a bare level country, chiefly populated by Jews, who are occupied in every species of husbandry. The villages proved wretched in the extreme, and nothing was to be met with but filth and poverty. About eleven p. m. we crossed a considerable river, in a flat-bottomed boat, and travelled all night through a sameness of country; before morning we got on better roads. The horses in these parts are not larger than good-sized English ponies.

24th.—Made halt for refreshment at the miserable little town of Rzeszow, and put up at a Jewish *tractier* (inn). Here, again, we were beset with numerous Jews, of the lowest order; yet their behaviour was very respectful. We were shown into a filthy room, furnished with a few wooden chairs, and bedsteads, full of hay—the only utensils to be met with for the comfort of travellers in these parts.

Our way from this lay on a ridge of elevated country—roads heavy and sandy. Two stages brought us to the straggling, filthy town of Lanzut. In the neighbourhood is the residence of Prince Potowski, to whom we had a letter; and were driven to the palace, a very considerable old mansion, handsomely furnished, and possessing many *petits objets* of curiosity, from all parts of Europe: the gardens and pleasure grounds are laid out precisely *à l'Anglaise*. We were hospitably entertained, and not allowed to proceed till the following morning.

25th.—One stage from this we made a call on Prince Lebermersky, when, after partaking of a good repast, served up quite in the English style, we left. This nobleman does credit to his country, by copying every other where he thinks it benefits his own: he has been in England, and speaks its language fluently. Some information, and a line to the Governor of Radzovillow, which

he favoured us with, afterwards proved of great service.

At four p. m. we left, and travelled on another ridge of high country, with but indifferent roads. We met with immense tracts of marshy ground, on all sides—the landscape views reminded me of some parts of Holland. The only cultivation met with was on the most elevated places, and directly in the neighbourhood of the post-road: oats, buckwheat, and a little barley, are the common grain cultivated in these parts. Towards evening we passed large droves of young horses, from Transylvania and Wallachia, for the supply of the army; they were driven by a party of dragoons, under the command of an officer.

26*th*.—After travelling all night, we halted at the neat little village of Bartatow. Opposite the post-house we found a decent inn. The host, having but lately come from Hamburgh, boasted of the excellent accommodation we should meet with; we benefited by a good breakfast, served *à la minute*, and on our departure found we had to pay for it *à la Hambourgeoise*.

At ten a. m. we started, and soon reached Limberg; we found it to be a considerable town, possessing little attraction, thin of population, and void of commerce. Its position is very desirable, occupying the base of a circle of petty hills.

Here we were detained some time for our passport, which underwent a rigorous examination,

this being the last town of any consequence we pass through before arriving at the Russian frontier. Having got information from a cabinet messenger, who passed us on the road, respecting the unhealthy state of the provinces of Wallachia and Moldavia, we determined on making our way to Odessa by another route, avoiding the common one by Yassey, and entering Russia at Radzovillow.

During our stay here I got into conversation with the post-master, who appeared a loyal subject; and endeavouring to show him the blessings of liberty enjoyed in England, by people of all nations who reside there, he got out of all temper; and at one time was in such a rage, that he recalled a man we had dispatched to the police. He declared, that no state in Europe was so well governed as that of his Emperor. I found, after a good deal of parley, that this gentleman had never been beyond eight hours' distance from where we now stood.

Soon after leaving the town, owing solely to the carelessness of our postillion, we had the misfortune to have the pole of our carriage broken; however, with the assistance of a travelling Jew, we were soon righted, and again proceeded. The roads, for the first stage, are somewhat hilly, with very interesting scenery; we afterwards got into a level country, and abundant crops of various sorts of grain appeared everywhere. We travelled

all night; the roads, as we approach Brody, improve, and posting is more expeditious

27*th*.—We arrived at six a. m. After refreshing, I proceeded to the custom-house, to claim a deposit made on entering this country: a sort of tax is claimed on every vehicle that passes the frontier into Austria, which, if sold, is not recoverable; but if you leave the country with the same carriage, within a certain time, you are entitled to claim the deposit.

This is the last town in Austria, before entering Russia; here we remained all day, till we could get a new pole to our carriage, and a sort of seat constructed for the Russian drivers. The population consists principally of Jews, many of whom are very useful in changing money, and assisting the traveller through the custom-houses. We went to the bankers for money, who gave it us in Austrian paper, to be changed at his correspondent's at Radzovillow, as Russian paper-money is not allowed to re-enter the country, having once crossed the frontier—a circumstance attended with much disadvantage.

28*th*.—Were off this morning as early as six o'clock; and after crossing fields of sandy soil, and fighting our way through woods for some distance (no regular road existing), we got to the barriers of the two extreme frontiers; here we were detained for nearly two hours, till our passport returned, which had been previously forwarded

from Brody to Radzovillow, the evening before, in order to gain time, which, from the negligence of the man whom we had sent, it appears, had not been properly attended to. On receiving it, we were escorted by a Cossack to the custom-house of the latter town, where we underwent a strict search, and where detained nearly two hours.

We then proceeded to the post-house, which has the title of the Hôtel de Petersbourg, and is kept by the post-master; here we had a little trouble in procuring our money, and endeavouring to get a *poderôzne*, without which no one can travel post in the Russian dominions; it answers as a passport also, as you present it to the police, when required, instead of the latter. Having failed in procuring it, we made a contract with the post-master for four horses, to take us one hundred and eighty versts to Proskurow, where we could procure a *poderozne*, and be able to travel by post. At three p. m. we commenced our journey, at a rapid rate, driven by a dirty ill-looking fellow. For the first twenty-seven versts we proceeded through a level, cultivated country, some of it woodland; it had rained the previous night, and this morning the roads were, in consequence, in a very muddy state, and in many parts one complete sheet of water. About six, we made a halt at a little village, and refreshed our horses. From this we encountered a sandy track, in the midst of a forest; night came on fast,

and the road seemed to get worse. I must here remark, we were not in the highway, but travelling across the country, relying entirely on our coachman's judgment to find a road; he, however, brought us safe to a Jewish *tractier*, a wretched filthy place, where we found a room occupied by men, women, and children, all sleeping on pallets of straw, on the ground. We partook of some eatables, which we had provided ourselves with at Brody, previous to starting; every thing here being so filthy as not to be touched.

29th.—About one p. m. we started again, over a level country, with roads knee-deep in mud. About three a. m., and near on the break of day, we got hard and fast in a ditch; our stupid coachman had been asleep, and we might as easily have been driven into a river, or over a precipice: here we were detained nearly two hours, and with all our exertions we could not move the wheels, which were in the mud up to the axle-tree; our horses (though very good) were quite knocked up, and of no use. I went and aroused some Russian peasants, and with their assistance and the use of a whip, which I applied pretty smartly to the shoulders of our driver, we succeeded, and once more got under way. About seven a. m. we entered another wretched, dirty village, entirely Jewish, of the lowest order; we put up at one of their *tractiers*, for breakfast—hunger overlooked filth, and I enjoyed what at another time would

have been disgusting; here I had also a quarrel with our bearded conductor, who was not likely to keep to the contract of bringing us to Proskurow by a certain hour in the evening. He wanted to proceed with the same horses; we complied, and twelve versts more proved the poor animals to be completely at a stand still. We paid him so far, and procured others.

The country became more open, and extensive scenery of hills and valleys, with lakes and forests, were presented to our view at every verst. Night drew on fast, and it was eleven p. m. when we arrived at Proskurow; here all were in bed, and we thought it more prudent to hire horses and travel on till day-light, when we could more easily get our *poderozne.* We now commenced on the high road, which proved to be good and level; the night being dark we were prevented seeing the surrounding country. After getting through two stages, and bartering at each post for horses, with the Jews, who took the advantage of our not being provided with a government order, we arrived at the little town of Lititchew by seven a. m. We put up at a Jewish *tractier;* being Saturday they would not assist us in any way, yet they were civil, and *professed* themselves anxious to serve us; we were, however, enabled to procure a Russian woman, who managed to make us a breakfast.

30th.—I went to the Governor's, concerning our *poderozne;* but his worship was not up, even at

nine o'clock, and was not to be disturbed by common travelling *Anglais*, who did not prove nobles. We remained patiently till ten, when I waited on him again; he proved a regular surly personage, and although I found he spoke the French language fluently, he would not now condescend to please, but hummed, and pinched his ear; and notwithstanding I had previously presented our passport, which bore the English arms, and the signature of the Earl of Aberdeen, he was inclined to send us about our business, *sans poderozne*. At last, some one came in, and after his (the burgomaster's) going out, and returning again, by which time he had got into a better humour, he ordered us, with his servant, to the police, and desired them to make out what we wanted.

What with this little minded fire-brand of a governor, and the non-expedition of the police (whom we were obliged to bribe *en plusieurs endroits)*, we were kept here till half-past one, p. m. During our stay upwards of two thousand infantry, with light artillery, passed on their way to Moldavia and the theatre of war. Their band struck up while passing the town, which had but little effect on the non-animated Russians, who had been seven weeks on their march—they had more the appearance of a beaten army than reinforcements to the camp.

We left this at last, with six horses attached to our light phaeton, travelling at the rate of about

ten miles per hour, over good roads, and continued all night very expeditiously.

31*st.*—A fine morning, and the roads still good; we travel very fast, and make up for the time lost in changing horses, which is very considerable at some stations. The highways in this country are distinguished from the fields only, by having a ditch on each side; they are from sixty to seventy yards wide, and from the time they are first made never undergo any repair; the soil is a complete mould, and when wet, is like fine cement. By six, a. m., we crossed the river Boug, which is not more than sixty yards wide here; we soon afterwards arrived at the town of Brailaw. The next stage, across a very steep hill, brought us to the provincial town of Toultchin; it has a much superior aspect, before entering, than we really found it afterwards. Having passed the barrier, and traversed the principal street of the town, we arrived at a German inn, where we found every thing very clean and plentiful. The population is principally Jewish, and far exceeds that of any other town we have passed since entering Russia; the Jews appear to enjoy all the privileges of the Russian inhabitants. It was a fair day, and the various costumes of the peasantry, who came with their produce to market, contrasting with the dress of the inhabitants, had a very pleasing effect.

We experienced in this case, as in many others, the degrading practices of the lower order of Jews,

who, without distinction, take advantage of every traveller fortune may throw in their way: before we had scarcely refreshed, we were annoyed by numbers of them, all anxious to change money or supply us with horses; knowing, at the same time, that we could not be furnished with the latter from the post-house, on account of the numerous government couriers on the road. Being anxious to proceed with as little loss of time as possible, we were compelled to take their horses for the following stage.

The country beyond Toultchin, for upwards of eighty versts, is better cultivated, and possesses a much greater population; every six or ten versts brings us to a village, or some few houses on the road-side; the scenery is pretty, and various petty hills and small lakes are seen. On the borders of the latter are found some neat villages; the cottages, being whitewashed, are distinguished at a great distance, and have a very lively appearance. In passing one of these hamlets, we witnessed a Russian dance by the peasantry, who were celebrating a marriage festival; the women were all collected on one side, whilst the men kept at a respectful distance on the other; in the centre was a group dancing without music, it was not unlike the Highland Fling, as performed in the northern parts of Scotland. It was a droll sight—a picture of union for life—a mixture of pleasure and pain.

After crossing some very high hills, and tra-

velling over a fertile country, we arrived at the straggling town of Olgopol; previous to entering which, we passed a considerable supply of provisions for the army. Not finding any inn here, we entered a Jew's dwelling, and partook of some hard-boiled eggs and black bread.

From hence we had eight horses to our calash, to climb the steepest hill I ever remember to be obliged to cross *en voiture;* the descent was equally difficult, and night closed on us long ere we could reach the bottom; the lights in the villages, and scattered houses, had a curious appearance, as we came crawling down upon them, from the clouds, as it were. The second stage was hilly, and we found it unpleasant travelling, frequently over a rough road, at the rate of from ten to fifteen versts an hour. During the night we heard the drums of some troops on their march.

September 1*st.*—This morning, by day-break, we found ourselves on the commencement of an open uninhabited country, in some places hilly; at first sight, it reminded me of the Downs in Hampshire, but then I looked for trees or houses, and found none; the roads were, in appearance, formed over these wilds, according to the fancy of the traveller, who is left to choose the nearest, and pick that he likes best. Hitherto we had had, for a distance of four hundred versts, young trees planted on each side of the road, with the addition of a ditch, which not only makes it more

lively for the traveller, but acts as a guide during the heavy falls of snow in the winter; but now the *Steppe* of Russia commences—an ocean of waste.

Most of the post-houses have two rooms on a floor; one is occupied by the postillions, who all sleep round a stove which has been heated during the day; the other is for the clerk, and the use of travellers; here is found nothing else in the eating line but black bread, salt, and water. The steppe not being woody, the peasants have recourse to a weed, called kisch, which they use invariably, as the only fuel to be procured in the country.

About eight, a. m., we passed upwards of three thousand infantry and artillery, with thirty-six pieces of cannon, on their way to Brailaw; they had been marching all night. The numbers of baggage waggons, drawn by oxen, were crowded with lame and fatigued soldiers; they had a pitiful appearance; the horses of the artillery seemed to feel the effects of long marching less than the men; the gun carriages and powder magazines are of light workmanship, though very strong, and the whole are painted of a light green colour. At nine we arrived at the prettily-situated town of Novo Dou Bazar, close to which flows the river Dnieper, which divides the province of Kherson from Bessarabia. Bender, so well known in the history of Charles XII., is near to this. We put up at a clean German inn, where we were fortunate

enough to get some sort of a christian breakfast, for the first time since we had left Brody. The stir and bustle seen in every part of this town may convey some idea of the result of war; couriers to and from Odessa and the head-quarters of the army were continually pouring in; one I conversed with, who had just left the army, near Bucharest, told me they were in a very sickly state, and, for the want of supplies and reinforcements, were completely at a stand; he said, the Emperor was expected every day to join the army before Varna.

The troops we had passed this morning came to a halt on the steppe, outside the town; camps are putting up, and every one is on the look out for rest and refreshment. Three officers, who came into the town, found their way to our inn, and asked for eatables; on inquiring how long they had been on their route, I was astonished, on their answering, "eleven weeks continually." One of the young men, a native of Poland, spoke French fluently; he was very chatty; they all seemed as anxious for information from the camp, as I was eager to hear about their march. The soldiers were far from animated, and when we consider the fatigue of long and forced marches, over the dreary steppe, there is every excuse for their drowsy appearance; they did not relish the news of a disease or plague, now raging amongst the army they were on the eve of joining.

From this we proceeded on our journey; at

three miles from the town we passed the quarantine, which is immediately in the neighbourhood of the river; on this side it is an assemblage of low unattached houses, with a boundary of whitewashed walls; close to it is the passage of the river, over a bridge of boats. I observed upwards of two hundred carts, laden with provisions for the army, in the act of passing.

We here arrived on the ridge of a steppe, which continues for fifty versts to Teraspol. Previous to arriving, we witnessed a cloud of those destructive insects, the locusts; we had to encounter them as they flew across the steppe, by millions; some of them alighted on our carriage—I took one of them, it measured about three inches long, and was two inches broad from the points of the wings. The postillion told us they had devoured every article of vegetation that fell in their way—whole fields of corn are devastated in a few days by these destructive creatures.

I heard of a method resorted to frequently by the peasantry near the sea, when the wind is favourable; they collect with shovels, pans, fire-arms, &c. keeping up a horrible noise, advancing in a line as the locusts retreat, which are frequently driven from the land to seek an asylum in the bosom of the deep.

The quantities of windmills, forming a barrier, as it were, before entering Teraspol, have a singular effect; all appeared at work, no doubt grinding

corn, for the supplies wanted in the provinces of Bessarabia and Wallachia.

This last stage of fifteen versts performed in forty-four minutes, may convey some idea of the rapidity of travelling on the steppe; were it not for the great loss of time in changing horses, nothing could equal the Russian posting, for expedition. During the short time we remained here, I tasted some fish (a kind of sturgeon) which had been caught in the Dnieper, where abundance is found; it is an excellent food, and much in repute; they run from three to four feet long, and weigh, very frequently, fifty or eighty pounds.

Leaving the town of Mills, we journeyed with night, for it became dark almost as soon as the sun went down; the roads proved good and level for the following two stages. During the night, we passed considerable supplies going towards Odessa, for exportation.

2nd.—Morning broke in upon us calmly, when we found ourselves still on the steppe; our approach to the Black Sea became evident by the quantity of sea-fowl and curious-coloured birds. I noticed the ring-tailed dove and speckled hoppoe, having been acquainted with them before while in Egypt; our approach to Odessa had a wild and dreary aspect. Oceans of steppe appeared everywhere, without a vestige of cultivation or wood. At the last post-station I was somewhat alarmed, on descending from our carriage to pay for the

horses, when I found my legs and feet completely useless and benumbed, having been in a cramped position, with the exception of three nights, during a journey of thirteen days.

At five, a. m., we passed the barrier and free limits of Odessa, which is guarded by a party of Cossacks. We were half an hour traversing the environs and streets of the town before we arrived at the Hôtel du Nord (kept by a Greek), where we alighted, and were fortunate in procuring apartments, the town being much thronged with military.

CHAPTER II.

Foreign Ambassadors—Heat—Emperor and Empress—The Emperor's departure for Varna —Success of the Turks—Filthy Hotel—Cold —Fever amongst the Troops—Population— Commerce—Leaving Odessa—Barrier—Scythian Steppe—Salt Lakes—Melons—Tumuli — General Copley—Mirage — Nickolaef— German Colony — Public Establishments — Kherson—Defect in Timber—New Prison— Jewish Soldiers—Cross the Dnieper—Turkish Prisoners—Steppe Rats—Bustards—Steppe of Pericop — Whirlwinds—Tartar Wells— Cemeteries—Simpheropole—Market—Public Buildings—Turkish Pacha—Savage Dogs— Bohemian Gipsies—Tartar manner of winnowing Corn — Jews — Ploughing — Karassubazar — Caravansari—The Azof—Tartar Village — Mountains — Bulgarian Colony — Bad Roads — Vintage — Soudak — Genoese Ruins — Turkish Prisoners — Game — Approach to Kertch — Bosphorus — Tumuli— Kertch—Quarantine—Mithridates—Splendid Views — Military — Liberation of Turkish Prisoners.

ODESSA is very gay at this time, having the Emperor and Empress, with some of the court, here, as well as the various foreign ambassadors;

the latter dine *ensemble*, at our inn, daily. The weather is excessively hot, and nothing can be more disagreeable than the volumes of dust, which are continually flying through the streets; and when the wind is off the steppe, it is scarcely sufferable. In winter, I am told, it is equally unpleasant; and that after rains, the streets become one complete mire, and frequently heavy equipages are seen sticking hard and fast in the mud, without any hope of being speedily released.

The plan of this modern-built city is superior, and possesses many conveniences; although, on the other hand, the immense space from one side of the street to the other is tedious, and, for a town, tends to many inconveniences. The houses are low, and most of them whitewashed, as is very common with the Russians, in all their buildings.

September 3rd.—His Majesty left to day, on board a frigate, for Varna; salutes were fired by the few ships in the harbour.

4th.—This morning early, the Emperor came into port again, owing to contrary winds, after having been at sea twenty-four hours.

During the afternoon I went to the palace of Count Woronzoff, to see His Majesty depart *en poste*, for the army. The equipages were very simple, and the whole turn-out had more the appearance of some second-rate commoner, than that of the Emperor Nicholas. The shabby appearance of the carriages, the clumsy manner in which they

were packed, and, withal, the dirty appearance of the imperial domestics (who would not be allowed to enter some stables in England), was what it would be difficult to meet with in any other country than Russia.

After waiting some time in the court-yard of the palace, I was gratified with a sight of the Czar, as he entered his carriage. He is a tall, handsome, soldier-like personage, with a fine manly countenance, possessing an air *dégagé*. He was dressed in the plainest manner, in a dark green double-breasted frock, with red collar and cuffs, a cap of the same cloth, with red band, and a gray military cloak thrown loosely over him. All eyes were anxiously fixed on him, whose appearance amongst his troops was only required, to give them energy, and (as it was thought) determine the fate of Varna.

At four, p. m., His Majesty started, with the Empress (who accompanied him but a few versts out of the town) and General Beckendorff, his secretary; several miserable calashes and post carts followed. His Majesty saluted his officers, severally, in an affable manner, as he passed the balconies and promenades on which they were assembled.

5th.—Our filthy hotel swarms with several *familiar* kinds of vermin, customary to the country; we have not as yet enjoyed a night's rest, nor are we likely, being kept in continual action by these dire enemies to all repose.

6th.—The weather is changed, and is now as piercing cold as it was yesterday insufferably hot. The scarctiy of trees or shelter of any kind, in and round the town, must subject this place to extremes of weather; the few gardens in the neighbourhood are all, at this moment, parched up; water is scarce, and is brought from a considerable distance in carts to the town. An English engineer is now employed in taking plans to supply the city with water by means of a canal, from the river Boug; the same gentleman has succeeded in bringing water from the mountains, on the coast, to Sevastopol, in the Crimea.

7th.—Every day brings us fresh accounts of the miserable and discontented state of the invading army; what with the extreme heat, which has brought on a fever amongst the troops, and the deficiency of medical aid, accompanied with bad management of the supplies for the camp—all seems at a stand. The Turks, although they had the worst at the beginning of the campaign, are now making up for the loss of Brailaw, and greatly annoy the advanced posts of the enemy; the poor Cossacks, on account of the inferiority of their horses to those of the Osmandlies, are carried off by whole parties.

The population of Odessa is about 50,000, and is a mixture of all nations; the Jews, in particular, are very numerous, and have their synagogue. The commerce with this port is at present in a

state of stagnation, on account of the trade with the Mediterranean being closed up. I observed most of the granaries (of which there are many) to be full of corn, the speculations of the merchants, who are waiting the conclusion of the war.

Many Austrian, English, and Genoese vessels are employed in the transport service; three steamboats also are here, one of which is employed between this, Varna, and Sevastopol.

The Empress is very popular here; and, by the encouragement she gives to education, and her many private virtues, is beloved by all. A school for the education of young ladies has been established solely at her expense, where every polite accomplishment is taught.

I had much trouble in procuring our passport, being unacquainted with the system of bribery, which is necessary to ensure expedition.

Having occasion to post some letters, I was astonished at having them returned to me, on account of their not being addressed in the Russian language.

11*th*.—Having at length procured a Russian passport, and a *poderozne* for post-horses, which is made out from Odessa to Tiflis, a distance of 1785 versts, we left this morning at eleven a. m.; three quarters of an hour brought us to the barrier, where all our baggage was overhauled. The first five versts proved a sandy road, along the shore of the bay; the several ships of war in the offing

were firing salutes, and were decorated in the colours of all nations, it being some particular saint's day. After the first post station, we commenced the Scythian steppe, bordering the sea; here again we witnessed numerous clouds of locusts, and observed several salt lakes on both sides of the road. The country, in general, is cultivated with wheat and other grain, and considerable fields of water-melons are seen every where: during the day several carts laden with them passed us, on their way to Odessa; I observed many tumuli. Forty-eight versts brought us to the bare little village of Troitskoye (about half a mile distant from a salt lake), the inhabitants of which, about three hundred in number, are slaves, and the property of an English gentleman, who has been forty years in the service of the Emperor, and has attained the rank of general; he is now a rich sheep-owner, and is like a governor in this village, with a troop of Cossacks at his command. We remained during the night at his hospitable dwelling, where we were paid every attention, and regreted leaving the comfortable mansion of General Copley.

12*th*.—From this to Nickolaef is seventy-four versts; the steppe continues, and we sometimes travel twenty versts without meeting a soul, or seeing any habitation. During the day I witnessed a curious phenomenon, which frequently takes place on the steppes of Russia, commonly

called Mirage: the vapour from the earth, acted upon by the power of the sun, rises and appears to take with it whatever object may be before you; its general appearance is that of a lake, with islands, houses, cattle, or trees (where they are to be found); it recedes as the traveller advances, and its deception, in tapering off to a complete shallow, is truly astonishing. We passed several salt lakes and tumuli. About ten versts from Nickolaef, we caught sight of the beautiful river Boug, which we afterwards crossed; it is about three versts broad here*. Nickolaef lays about four versts from the ferry, and is the Plymouth of this part of Russia; here are built ships of the line, the town being well calculated, as the river Ingula falls into the Boug, and forms a sort of basin or harbour. The town is modern, as indeed are most places in these parts. We were entertained at the house of an English gentleman, an engineer in the service of the Emperor, and remained for two days, during which time we experienced every sort of kind treatment. The only *tractiers* here are wretched places, kept by Jews; there are many English in the Russian service. Admirals Greig and Mercer, who are now at the blockade of Varna, are both English.

* It is supposed, that it is from the immense bodies of fresh water which fall into the Black Sea, that it freezes in shore during winter.

The former is Governor of the whole Black-Sea Department; he is generally well liked amongst the Russians, and is also high in the estimation of the Emperor. About eight versts from the town is a German colony; they bring butter, cheese, and vegetables to market—luxuries rarely produced by the industry of the dull Russian, who is content with his portion of black bread and salt, and (in the season) the water melon, which he devours with the greatest voracity; watky is his spirit, which he frequently indulges in till in a state of stupor.

The river Boug abounds with excellent fish, and produces a species not unlike the cod, which is very good eating. The town boasts of a dock-yard, observatory, naval college, &c., the whole of which (with the addition of the public gardens and promenade) have been instituted by Admiral Greig.

15*th*.—Left the pretty town of Nickolaef, and commenced another steppe, the wildest we had as yet met with, continuing for fifty-nine versts, to Kherson, on the river Dnieper. During our day's journey, in the vicinity of the post-houses, I observed fields of melons. Previous to entering the latter town we visited the monument of Howard, the philanthropist, which is about a verst out of the high road, and five versts from Kherson.

We were hospitably entertained at the house of an Englishman, Mr. Crisp, principal conductor of

the extensive rope works here. This town is another nursery for the navy of the Black Sea; I observed several brigs, a schooner, and other small craft, dismantled, being under repair.

The timber employed in ship-building in Russia is destroyed in a very few years, by an insect, to exterminate which enemy from the wood every means they have hitherto used has failed.

The town itself is considerable, yet far from interesting. They are building a prison (after the plan of Howard), which, at this moment, is much needed, for the disposal of Turkish prisoners.

There are a great quantity of Jews here, as I also noticed at Nickolaef; the Emperor has compelled many to become soldiers. I have heard that the army in Turkey has benefited much by their natural acuteness, and that they are more employed in providing necessaries for the camp, and domestic affairs, than carrying the musket; they have been also proved to have an equal share of bravery. These unfortunate people are of great service to the traveller in Russia, and to the natives they are indispensable; for if any thing is wanted in particular, the best and last resource is, to apply to a Jew.

On the outside of Kherson there are a number of windmills; they were all of them at work, no doubt grinding corn for the supply of the army and navy, now engaged in the war.

16*th*.—Left this place about nine a. m.; after

traversing the town about a verst and a half, we got to the water-side. Our host was kind enough to accompany us in his Draskey, and aided in procuring a boat to cross the river. I observed quantities of water melons lying in heaps on the shore, ready to be embarked for Odessa; I also noticed abundance of fine chilis and plums, and a fruit I never saw before, which eats like a nut, and is of a triangular form before it is shelled; the Russians call it river fruit, as they are raked up from the bottom of the Dnieper. We embarked, and occupied two hours and a half in crossing a distance of seventeen versts; there are many islands in the river, covered with tall reeds, between which we navigated up the channels; we passed three boats full of Turkish prisoners, on their way from the fortress of Anapa, which has lately fallen into the hands of the Russians, under Admiral Greig. The poor fellows were amusing themselves by playing on a reed, which I remember having heard played by Arabs, during a journey up the Nile. I saluted them in the few words of Arabic I knew, but they did not comprehend me. By half-past twelve we were landed at the village of Liske, and commenced travelling over a sandy tract, which continued for twenty-one versts; we had six horses to our calash this stage, but could never get into a trot. After having quitted the village, we did not meet a

human being or habitation, up to the next post-house; we observed the tract of the steppe rat in many places; in make, they are not unlike the kangaroo; they seldom make their appearance till the evening, and even then are very shy. We began here to meet with great quantities of bustards; they are excellent eating, and are frequently seen in the markets of Odessa and Kherson; they weigh from fifteen to twenty pounds; we fired at them several times with ball, but did not succeed in bringing any of them down. Having changed horses, we commenced the steppe of Pericop, which continued for eighty versts. I observed, for the first time in these parts, the singular effect of whirlwinds, carrying up clouds of dust and loose reeds from the ground to a considerable height. I could distinguish the road we had to follow over the steppe for upwards of twenty versts, by the curling dust travelling over it; the sight is very pleasing, especially when the wind can collect a sufficient quantity of dust to move in a large body.

It became night long before we arrived at Pericop, the last town and frontier with the Crimea. It was little short of midnight when we crossed the ditch, and arrived at the barrier, where the sentinel stopped us, to examine our passport. We were prevented, from the darkness of the night, observing either the Sea of Azof, or the

Black Sea (which almost unite here), as we passed between them—they are both visible during the day. We journeyed on till morning.

17*th*.—This morning the sun rose majestically from behind a range of mountains, producing something novel to what we had been used of late; we are as yet on a steppe, fifty versts each way: we now begin to meet with more verdure, and every thing is new. The costume of the peasants is very striking. We are now in the land of Tartars; and although Russia has deprived these active race of people of their country and liberty, it will be long before they can subdue their spirit. We passed considerable quantities of oxen, buffaloes, sheep, and camels, grazing; I observed also a greater portion of the steppe cultivated. This country is celebrated for the curly lamb-skin, black and gray; those of the best quality bring high prices, and are often sold for the Astrachan skin, so much in repute. Water is an article not at all plentiful on the steppe, and it is equally scarce in these parts.

I observed a novel manner, in use among the Tartars, for drawing it up from a great depth; a long rope, with a large leathern bag (kept open at the mouth by a hoop), is let down into the well, the end is fastened to the saddle of a mounted Tartar, who rides off, and by this means draws the water from the well; a person in attendance empties the bag whilst the horseman returns,

and repeats the process as often as may be required.

The Crimea, with Odessa, became part of Russia in the reign of the Empress Catherine.

Here, again, we met with great quantities of bustards. Nothing can be more interesting to the sportsman than meeting hundreds of these noble birds; they are very tame, and allow you to get within gun-shot; we were unlucky in the extreme, being provided with no other fire-arms than pistols. We stopped to refresh on the road, at a sort of *traktier;* some biscuits (brought with us from Odessa), and buffaloe's milk, procured here, was our fare.

The last post, seventeen versts into Simpheropole, the capital of the Crimea, produced a complete change of scenery, equally novel as pleasing; we got into a pretty valley, covered with cottages and young trees, with green meadows watered by a clear stream; how welcome and how cheering it appeared, after having been so long accustomed to the dreary parched steppe, for eleven hundred versts.

Previous to entering the town we passed a cemetery of the Tartars, on the road-side; the graves resemble heaps of stones in a field more than a receptacle for the dead; some stones were erect, and covered with Tartar and Turkish inscriptions. About noon, having traversed the principal street of the town, we arrived at the

tractier, which is kept by a German; the rooms are merely furnished with chairs, a table, and bedsteads, without bedding.

18*th*.—Our apartments, though rather dirty, are not infested with vermin, as was the case at Odessa.

The streets of this city, of which there are about a dozen, are very irregular, and in a shameful state of decay; with the exception of the Governor's house, Simpheropole is a collection of paltry mean-looking buildings. There are four mosques and two Christian churches (two Greek, one Armenian, and one Catholic). I met with many Germans here, who have a colony in the neighbourhood, mostly Protestants.

The principal merchants are Russians, who get their goods chiefly from Moscow. The weekly market held here is really interesting to those who enjoy novelty of costume and odd equipages; Germans, Jews, Turks, Russians, &c., are seen, in all directions, exposing their produce for sale. Here you will meet the German driving a pair of oxen, with a horse as leader; Tartar carts, drawn by dromedaries; and horsemen, covered with Circassian bourkas. I actually saw a French doctor, in ill health, leave this place for Theodosia, *in a light phaeton drawn by a pair of immense camels.*

The barracks outside the town are at present nearly empty, as most of the military are employed at the seat of war; the few that are left are regular tipplers—watky is their god.

A Turkish pacha has been lodging in our hotel for a short time; he was taken prisoner at Anapa, where he lost an eye. I afterwards learnt, that his father caused it to be forced out, on his not immediately executing some orders he had given him during the storming of the fortress. He is now on his way to Theodosia (Kaffa).

Having occasion to walk outside the town, I encountered a great number of savage dogs, and observed several tents, about which were playing some naked children, almost black with the sun. I was told the encampment was that of some Bohemian gipsies. I returned by the Tartar cemetery; it represented a rabbit warren more than a place of rest for the dead, for the dogs are continually tearing up the earth. I also noticed some Tartars trampling out and winnowing their corn, after the same manner as that I remember to have seen practised in Sicily; eight or ten oxen, abreast, are driven round a circle, in which the corn is laid; when it is all in this manner trampled out, it is thrown up into the air with shovels, until it is completely cleared from the chaff.

A plant is found in abundance in the Crimea, which answers all the purposes of cochineal, for dyeing; horse-radish is also another article found on the steppe; I have seen it brought to market in bundles, like faggots; it grows wild, and to an enormous size; nevertheless it is mild and palatable.

The Jews here are less numerous, and more select, than at many other places we have passed. One of their tribe, who was employed at our hotel, owing to some breach in the observance of their religion and customs, had been expelled the synagogue.

In the time of peace, when commerce is open with the Mediterranean, this place is supplied in a great measure from Odessa, by way of Sevastopol; the latter place is the principal port on the Black Sea, and the present rendezvous for the fleet.

The greater part of the wines used in the Crimea are from the vineyards on the coast; that of Soudak is considered the best: there are, however, some vines in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, which produce a good ordinary wine.

October 4th.—We left Simpheropole to-day. On looking back, a short distance from the town, it had a very pretty effect, having the gardens and a neat valley to survey, before the eye could be fixed on the houses, which are neatly disposed on the rise of the steppe, encircled by a range of curious hills. The country proved hilly, and the roads very indifferent, for the whole way. I observed the Tartars very busy cultivating the land, many of them had twelve or fourteen oxen to one plough, whilst a couple of dromedaries would be yoked in their carts. It became quite dark before we arrived at Karassubazar, where we put up at a Russian *tractier*.

5th.—To-day we remain here; the weather is particularly fine, and the mixture of Russians, Tartars, Germans, and Jews, has a grotesque appearance; there is a colony of Jews in the neighbourhood. The Tartar peasantry have come to the suburbs of the town with their produce, and the scene has the appearance of a fair. This little town is as neat and clean a one as may be found in the Crimea; the homely sound of the church bells told us we were yet in a Christian land, though I noticed the crescent on the minaret coping, with the gilded cross:—there are many Greek and Armenian families residing here.

6th.—Left this for Soudak; the morning is fine, but very cold. Before getting clear of the town we passed a considerable building, which proved to be a caravanserai; it is built more after the style of a fortress, than a rendezvous for travellers and merchandise. We passed several burial places of the Tartars, about a verst from the town, in one of which I noticed several women, covered with white robes, preparing to wash and inter a body. The roads for the first stage (twenty-two versts) became rather hilly, and but indifferent. The wretched hut and stabling at this post-station must be disheartening to the traveller in winter, as it is at some distance from any other dwelling, yet the country round, especially at this season, is not unpleasant: the stagnant waters of the Azof are visible at a great distance,

whilst the variegated mountains, in another direction, form a barrier between the Black Sea and the steppe. The soil in this quarter is in general extremely rich, and capable of producing very abundantly; some of it, which I noticed afterwards, where the Tartars were ploughing, was at a depth of twelve or eighteen inches of a jet black colour, and a complete mould. So much for the deserted riches that bounteous nature has poured forth amongst the numerous steppes of this remarkable country! The next stage from this is to take us to Soudak, forty-one versts; there being no direct road, we rely on the judgment of our postillion in tracing the sheep-tracks, which lay in the direction of the mountains across the steppe. We managed to get out of our way, and entered a Tartar village, which repaid our lost time by its interesting appearance; most of the houses were constructed of wood, and fenced in with a sort of strong tall platoon-work, and in the centre of the village was a neat mosque and cemetery.

After having been thrice put in the direct road, by some shepherds, whom we had the good fortune to meet with, we at length got into a defile of picturesque mountains, which we had to traverse towards the coast; nothing could be more interesting than the wild mountains bursting upon us; and pretty valleys, with rich woodland scenery, were every moment presenting themselves to our view. We have passed some Armenian villages,

and a Bulgarian colony, very agreeably situated in a deep glen, watered by a mountain stream. The only object we met with during the afternoon was the few Tartars herding their flocks, and some others bringing wine from the coast, in carts, drawn by buffaloes and oxen: after fighting our way across some steep hills, and over a very bad road, we descended gradually into a beautiful valley, chiefly planted with vine, and strewed on both sides with Tartar, Russian, and German dwellings. All is industry, for now is the vintage, and every one seems eagerly at work: I observed the wine-press in several places.

The sea comes gradually into view till a little before sun-set. We arrived at the delightfully-situated mansion of Baron Bode, who has the care of the vineyards belonging to the government.

7th.—I was up early this morning, and enjoyed the beautiful view of the sea and coast; a noble and extensive fortress is placed very conspicuously on a promontory, with some dilapidated walls, said to be the ruins of a Genoese castle. We observed the Germans and some Greeks working the wine-press, and gathering some grapes. The wine of Soudak is in common use throughout the Crimea, and sells at about five pence per quart. We retraced our road through the valley and mountains, for about fifteen versts, when we turned off through a forest, in which the road was very bad; we passed great quantities of Tartar

carts, going with barrels to Soudak; in passing an Armenian village, we saw some girls gathering mushrooms, who ran away on our approach, but returned immediately we had passed; a few versts brought us to Stari Crim, the ruins and scattered remains of a once-populated city; Russians and Armenians inhabit a little village built upon its site. From this we had an extensive view of the steppe, stretching to the Azof on the left, and the Bay of Theodosia extending along the right; a few versts brought us to Karagos, a pretty cultivated estate in the middle of the steppe, which has been brought to high perfection by the industrious exertions of an Englishman. From this we proceeded to Theodosia, across a bleak country. I observed a pretty little village, perched on an elevated spot; I was told it was a colony of Russians, who had come from a considerable distance in the interior of Russia to settle here. Soon after sun-set we entered Theodosia, the once ancient town and port of Kaffa: the general appearance of the houses, and paved streets, convinced us what it had once been, under the Genoese; the town is neatly placed in a corner of the bay; several ruins exist of Genoese grandeur; amongst others, a palace, a fortress, and an old wall on the east side of the town. The only oil produced in Russia is from the abundant olive groves, on the coast between Sevastopol and Soudak.

8*th*.—We remained here to-day. I went to the

Bazaar, and was much disappointed, fifty pounds sterling would have purchased all the paltry goods in it. Tartars, Armenians, Greeks, and Russians, are the chief inhabitants; most of the former are of the Jewish persuasion.

I observed but a few small craft in the harbour, none exceeding eighty tons; a government cutter and a gun boat are anchored at the mouth of the port. We are lodged at a comfortable *tractier*, kept by a German.

The Governor is a very affable man, and enjoys the company of travellers. I noticed about one hundred Turkish prisoners, who have been liberated, with permission to return to Anapa. I was told that three hundred had sailed in a transport but a short time before, for the same place.

9*th*.—At ten, a. m., we left this place for Kertch. Our route lay along the beautiful shore of the bay; on our left was a marshy flat, where the sea had, on some former occasion, made inroads; or, in another case, receded and left a barrier of sand, which has gradually augmented. After travelling about twenty versts we lost sight of the sea, and got into a bare hilly country, with a rich soil, where we observed cultivation; it appeared fertile beyond imagination. For the next twenty-nine versts we had a sameness of country, but were continually roused by the quantities of game flying in every direction; bustards, in flocks of from

thirty to fifty; Muscovy ducks, the common wild duck, flocks of the golden plover, partridges, &c. &c., were to be found here in vast numbers. The many very desirable situations for agriculture—the richness of the soil, which is covered with the choicest herbage—the very extensive views of the surrounding country, and the Azof, for a continuance of forty-one versts from the first station—make it much to be regretted, that it is not sufficiently populated. Our approach to Kertch proved very interesting, as the scenery kept continually changing; the seas on each side of us—the Euxine Bosphorus in the distance before us—the country covered with tumuli—and every now and then passing a neat Tartar village, with its mosque and cemetery, the smoke expanding over the valley like a cloud, was homely and inviting to the traveller, who encounters nothing on the steppe but what he looks at with regret, and only thinks of wrapping himself up from the keen breezes that drive along the wide plain. Night closed on us as we skirted the foot of the Golden Mount, and passed the barrier of tumuli, and it was quite dark by the time we arrived in Kertch. We put up at a German *tractier;* our carriage remained in the street all night, for want of a coach-house, guarded by a soldier.

10*th* to 12*th*.—We have remained here, on account of not being able to get a conveyance across the Bosphorus. The town is but a poor specimen,

at present, of what it is intended for, although it has been rapidly improving of late, the government being anxious that it may become a port of consequence, such as Taganrog or Odessa, and numerous stone buildings are now in progress: the old houses are chiefly of wood. One long straggling street forms the principal part of the town; the few paltry shops are occupied by Russians, Greeks, and a few Tartars. There is an old fortress, in a dilapidated state, which commands the kind of harbour. A garrison of about two hundred men is all that Kertch can boast of at this moment.

The quarantine is about four versts distant from the town, on the left of the bay.

The environs form one mass of tumuli—I never before saw so great a number. In the whole country round, for miles, on every elevated spot, and even on the plain, are found the sepulchres of the ancient inhabitants of this once-famed country. Amongst the numerous collections of tumuli here, is that of Mithridates, King of Pontus.

I went in the evening to the top of the hill, which hangs immediately over the town, and enjoyed one of the finest scenes I ever saw; it was half an hour before sunset, clear, mild weather, without a breath of wind—all was still and sublime; the bay and town were at my feet; the Isle of Taman, across the Bosphorus, was quite clear and perceptible; the entrance to the Black Sea on the

right, with a range of tumuli open to view, whilst the eye was carried along the Taman into the sea of Azof. On turning away from the calm sea, romantic scenery of hilly country, covered with the richest verdure, was presented to the sight. I was loath to leave the enchanting summit at the report of the evening gun from the guard ship in the bay.

The military of this town are the most miserable looking body of men I have as yet met with in Russia. Should the Emperor add Anapa to his territories, by this war, no doubt there will be a great intercourse from this port to Tiflis by that route, and Poti.

I was told that all the prisons in the Crimea are filled with Turks, who amount to upwards of six thousand; they are now liberating a great many, as the expense of keeping them is too considerable, although the Russians wish it to appear, in the eyes of their enemy, as an act of generosity.

CHAPTER III.

Leave Kertch—Straits of Yanikale—White Pelicans—Taman—Cossack Officer—Mud Volcano—Miserable Accommodations—Houses—Ferocious Dogs—Morasses—Miserable Shed—Shores of the Azof—Lake—Storks—View of Caucasus—Timruk—Attack by Dogs—Scarcity of Provisions—Fertile Country—Fortress—The Kouban—Redoubt—Commanding Officer—Russian Song—Boar Spear—Fortified Villages—Swine—Yekatrinodar—The Church—Bad Streets—High Winds—Circassians—Cossack Line of Picquet—Circassian Prince—Village—Droves of Cattle—Skirmish—Bare Country—Cranes—Stavropole—Filthy Tractier—Calmucs—Rapid Travelling—Bleak Steppe—Cold-Tea Punch—Recruits—Thievish Cossacks—The Besh Tan—Mount Elborus—Georgievsk—Russian Hut—Scotch Colony—Baths—Circassian Prisoners—Costume—Yekatrinograd—Russian Deception—Join Convoy—Confined Lodgings—Foggy Weather—Circassian Prince and Sons—Wild Boars—Redoubt of Arden—The Kasbek—Ossetinian Villages—Vladikavkaz—Officer's Widow—Cross the Caucasus—River Terek—Ossetinian Chief—Pass of Dariel—Village of

Kasbek — Monastery — Georgian Church — Kobi — Scarcity of Wood — Mineral Springs — Stone Cross — Dangerous Descent — Splendid Views — Kashaur — Georgians — Merchandize — The Aragua — Benighted and lost — Ananoor — Wine Shop — Monastery — Quarantine — Dushet — Turkish Prisoners — Wolves — Encampment — A Cossack's Ideas of Comfort — Church of Mskit — Ruined Castles — The Koor — Vineyards — German Colony — Entrance to Tiflis.

October 13th.—THE governor has been kind enough to grant us a gun boat, to take us across the Straits of Yanikale. At ten a. m. we got under way, but it was so calm, that we were towed out. Towards noon a breeze sprung up, but went off again; and when about the middle of the passage we struck aground, but, after a little difficulty, we got righted. The Bosphorus must be dangerous for large vessels, as we were frequently in four or five fathoms water only. We found it necessary to take to the boat, and leave the carriage on board the vessel, which had no chance of arriving that night, the calm still continuing. Never in my life do I remember seeing such quantities of white pelicans, they actually covered the surface of the water for a distance of ten or fifteen versts. It was half-past seven, and quite dark, before we got on shore; the crew

of the boat carried our luggage up to the village, and applied at a house for lodging, but the inmate, a female, denied us admittance, saying she was alone: however, two officers now made their appearance, and took our *poderozne*, desiring us to wait until they returned, and they would soon procure us shelter; in the interval, a young Cossack officer came up, and immediately opened the door of his house (the one at which we had at first applied), and showed us into his best apartment, where we slept very comfortably on the floor, covered with our cloaks. I was surprised at finding several English prints, representing the *Sorrows of Werter*, hanging against the walls of the room.

14*th*.—At four versts distance from this is a mud volcano. Had we not provided ourselves with provisions before leaving Kertch, we might have fared ill here, for nothing was to be procured: this place has the name of town, although there is not above thirty houses in it. I noticed two calves feeding on the roof of one of them; they are covered with earth, to keep them warm during the winter, and grass growing to a considerable height on the tops in summer, has a singular effect on strangers. The boat arrived at three p. m., and having got our carriage on shore, we left Taman at five. Soon after clearing the town, we passed a fortress on our left, and a village a little beyond it, swarming with ferocious dogs. We continued

along the sea coast, over the steppe; it was moonlight before we could get quite clear of the first post-station, from which place we travelled over a low marshy country, still on the coast, to the second station, thirty-six versts from Taman; here the moon no longer served, and the very appearance of night in this wretched country, where you have to fight your way through morasses, close to the shore of the Azof, with half-starved horses, was a serious thought, and we determined to remain till morning. We kept up a good fire of weeds, which the Cossacks constantly supplied; we made tea in our kettle; and reposed on some hay, covered with our cloaks, in this miserable shed, made of reeds and grass: the waves of the Azof was the only noise to be heard, as they broke on the beach behind our hut.

15*th*.—We were off soon after day-light; the first six versts lay through a difficult and narrow passage, between the marshes on the right and the Azof on our left; several bridges we had to pass were in a very unsafe condition—I pity the poor wretches who are obliged to remain in such a dreadful unhealthy spot. We got on to an elevated steppe, and left the Azof, and were immediately on the banks of a very large lake, of fresh water, on the shores of which we were obliged to travel for nearly eight versts, where the water was frequently up to the body of our carriage. I observed quantities of white storks and wild

geese: the river Kouban empties itself into this lake. From this we caught the first sight of the lower Circassian mountains. After dashing through a frightful morass, we at length arrived at the wretched village of Timruk, close to the Azof. Here, on entering the town, we were beset by some half-starved dogs, who attacked our horses; I leaped out of the post-cart, killed one with my sword, and dispersed the gang. This morning's work has been very disagreeable; nearly four hours were occupied in coming sixteen versts: we halted at the house of a captain of a hundred, where we boiled tea in our kettle, and picked and roasted some partridges, which we had bought in Kertch, for here again we could procure nothing but watky, bad fish, and the worst description of sour black bread. From this we travelled over a level fertile country, leaving the lake on our right, and the Azof, at some distance, on our left; this stage, of twenty-five versts, proved the strongest and richest soil we had as yet seen; herbage, of every description, was abundant everywhere, and grows from two to three feet high; some of the land was cultivated. We observed the wild asparagus, the dwarf elder, horse-radish, thyme, hollyhock, wormwood, and quantities of other plants, growing in profusion. A ridge of low hills was on our right, which terminate at this station, where there is a fortress, with look-out posts, and an observatory, at a short distance from the river

Kouban. The sentinel had seen us long before we approached, and all the Cossacks were drawn out in line to receive us; the officer came, and reported that the road was safe, but that we should have an escort if required: we declined the offer. The appearance of these uncouth-dressed Cossacks has a curious effect on the stranger; they are clothed in a sheep skin, a cap of the same description, and carry a sword, pistols, gun, and lance; they are strong hardy men, and are capable of enduring great fatigue; their horses are of the worst description, yet answer every purpose, as a good horse could not live with the usage they receive from the Tchernomorskie, or Black Sea Cossack. They are an economical body of military to the Emperor, receiving, in return for their services, only as much land as they choose to cultivate; they are harmless and unwarlike, yet form an excellent barrier between Russia and her eternal enemy, the Circassians.

From this fortress we could perceive the smoke from the fires of the Circassians, across the Kouban. The whole country below this is flat, and covered with high reeds, for upwards of one hundred versts. After changing horses, we commenced this dreary drive; at every two or three versts we came to an observatory, where were stationed from two to seven Cossacks, who all turned out in line on our approach, and remained "attention" till we had passed. The road proved very indifferent, and

many of the bridges were partly broken down; we noticed the track of the wild boar in many places, and also an eagle, which was within gun shot; we dared not fire at it, for fear of alarming the whole line of picquet. Night closed on us fast, and it became quite dark as we arrived at the welcome redoubt of Kopelskaya, where is stationed about one hundred Cossacks, commanded by a major. We heard the picquet, as we approached, calling their rounds every five minutes; we were challenged three different times before we got to the drawbridge of this mud fortress. Large fires were kept up all night, round the ditch, by the peasantry, who had flocked hither for security, with their cattle and carts—such is the precaution which is necessary for the safety of the country, which would otherwise be daily ravaged by the bold Circassians, who cross the Kouban as it is, and attack the Cossacks, whom they frequently defeat. We were hospitably entertained for the night, and had not long been here before several officers arrived from Georgia. The major gave us a long account of the depredations committed by the Circassians, whom he described as fiends incarnate; he was lame, from a wound he had received in a skirmish against them, and, whilst drinking, boasted of his own bravery, and that of his soldiers, till he became completely intoxicated.

I was highly amused during the evening at the hilarity of the Cossacks; having supped off fish-

soup, and partaken freely of watky, they began singing a favourite war song, which I have endeavoured to translate into English, thus:—

Haste ye, comrades! let us go,
The drum it beats to arms;
We'll not flinch to meet the foe,
Nor shrink at war's alarms.

But steady march to cheerful tune;
Courage never leaves the brave;
Glory is the soldier's boon;
Where'er he falls he finds a grave.

And when his Sovereign's duty's done,
In peace returns to home;
Honour marks the life he 's run,
And laurels are his own.

16*th*.—We left the worthy major at six o'clock this morning; and had an escort, which changed at every five or eight versts. We still continue travelling amongst the reeds, and observed traces of the wild boar in several places; the Cossacks frequently make up hunting parties, and enjoy the sport very much. They showed us a peculiar sort of boar spear; it is a large branch of a tree, the ends of the smaller branches being cut off; it is stuck into the ground, and serves as a rest for their muskets, as well as a weapon of attack.

Twenty-five versts brought us to another fortress (Kopil), upon the banks of a river (the Kara Kuban, or Proth) which here joins the

Kouban. We crossed it, and immediately on the other side found ourselves on a very extensive plain, the roads across which were very good.

We travelled rapidly for eighteen versts, with the Kouban on our right, and passed parties of Cossacks, at short intervals. The Circassian mountains get higher as we advance. The following seventeen versts were across a level fertile plain, on which were several villages, the whole of them fenced in with stakes.

The breed of hogs in these parts are, no doubt, a species of wild boar, as they resemble them in make and colour, and look equally as fierce; they run at large, and are sometimes as far as five versts from their home. The geese, also, as in the Crimea, are found frequently fifteen or twenty versts from home; I have seen flocks of them as strong on the wing as wild ones; they always return towards night.

After travelling twenty-two versts, over a very good road, we arrived at Yekatrinodar, on the north bank of the river; it is a good-sized town, but, as most others in New Russia, it stands on so much ground that one becomes fatigued in going from one house to another.

We succeeded in getting a lodging, by the assistance of the police; the general hospitality we met with from the Russians is highly complimentary to Englishmen, and honourable to themselves.

The church here is placed within a fort, surrounded with cannon, and close on the banks of the Kouban. The streets of this modern-built town are shamefully bad; in wet weather, you cannot move out for mud, and, when dry, the dust is suffocating; and the deep ruts are enough to break the springs of any carriage. It is fenced in with stake work, as is customary with all the towns in these parts. The annual fair held here is just closed; we met two Englishmen, one of whom had come direct from India.

17*th*.—We remained here to-day, and witnessed what was, to us, a most curious sight: the weather was stormy throughout the morning, and, about noon, the wind had so much increased, that the tents or booths of the merchants were lifted from the ground by it, and absolutely carried away by the violence of the storm.

The Kouban produces excellent fish; I observed some large sturgeon in the markets.

There are about thirty Circassians imprisoned in the fort, who were taken a few days ago. Having crossed the Kouban, in quest of plunder, they were ingeniously decoyed by a Russian, who told them where they could procure salt; they followed him into a house, where he found means to amuse them, until he succeeded in apprising the Cossacks, and they were overpowered and taken. They will, no doubt, be ransomed shortly, as the present government is not so cruel as that of the tyrant Yermolof.

I observed some of the friendly tribes of the Caucasus about the town, purchasing necessaries; they are a noble and manly-looking race of people.

18*th.*—Left at nine a. m., and began travelling on the right bank of the Kouban. At each observatory (of which there are five or six in this stage of twenty-eight versts) there is a high pole, with straw twisted round it, and a tar-barrel placed on the top*. Whenever the Cossacks are surprised by the Circassians, who frequently cross in their canoes, during dark nights and foggy weather, the sentinel sets fire to the beacon, and all the guards within view immediately flock to that point. There have, however, been instances of the Circassians deceiving the Cossacks, by causing them to fire one beacon, whilst they effect a landing, and plunder in another direction.

At the second stage (twelve versts) we met a moollha, or priest, attending a Circassian prince, who remains as an hostage in the hands of the Cossacks, for some tricks his countrymen have been playing.

I observed a Circassian village on the opposite bank of the river. At this post-station the dominions of the Cossacks of the line begin; and we now bade farewell to the Tchernomorskie.

From this we kept more in the interior, and left

* See Map.

the Kouban at some distance on our right. For the first three post-stations (seventy versts) we found the road good and level, upon a ridge of the steppe, commanding an extensive view of the lower Circassian country, extending to the mountains. During the day we passed immense droves of cattle, guarded by armed men. Towards night we took an escort of Cossacks of the Don, those of the line being engaged in the war against the Turks in Asia. Eighteen more versts brought us to a large village, surrounded with palisading,' and a strong guard of Cossacks at each entrance; we soon procured horses, and proceeded with a fresh escort. The moon greatly assisted us, and we travelled very rapidly; the Cossacks told us of the many encounters they had been in against their neighbours, over the water, who have made more frequent incursions of late, and had succeeded, in one instance, in carrying away the inhabitants and cattle of a whole village, and likewise a cannon; in the affray, an officer and several Cossacks were killed. Twenty-three versts more brought us to the pretty town of Timizbeskaya; we were obliged to send our *podorozne* to the captain of a hundred, who soon got us housed, and we enjoyed a few hours' repose. Four Cossacks, whom we had to attend us and guard our carriage, made themselves particularly useful in collecting wood, and picking and boiling two turkeys, which we had bought on our way; one of them showed me a sword which had been taken from the Circassians, of so excellent a

temper, that he could cut any common iron through with it.

19*th*.—At sunrise this morning we resumed our journey; the road lay on the banks of the river for twelve versts (the first stage). We breakfasted here; and, bidding adieu to the Kouban, commenced travelling across a dreary, bare country—sometimes journeying twenty versts without meeting with any habitation. On the steppe I noticed several stone images, probably the gods of the heathen tribes of Tartars, who once inhabited these parts. We felt relieved, on turning our eyes from the stale scenery we were traversing to the bold and lofty Caucasus, which seems to look down in sullen grandeur upon the country of its cruel oppressors.

I noticed quantities of cranes, flying, in flocks, from the inland steppe to the marshes in the neighbourhood of the Kouban.

At the station where we changed horses, I observed many of the houses built with stone of superior workmanship; several of the blocks being of a large size; curiosity led me to inquire where they had procured them, when I was told, from the ruins of a temple six versts off—something had led the peasantry to excavate on a rise of steppe, and this was their reward. Having journeyed on till evening, over a sameness of country, night closed on us, as we were entering a forest, and the moon became obscured by a thick mist; we were doubtful as to whether we should be able to reach

Stavropole that night, the roads being heavy and our horses jaded; we, however, pushed on, and at eleven o'clock found ourselves on a declivity leading to the town, on entering which I was astonished at hearing the most horrible howling of dogs.

The inhabitants of eastern countries, and particularly Mahometans, are celebrated for their love of breeding those animals; the Tartars of the Crimea were allowed to indulge this passion until within late years, when the country becoming more inhabited, by people from civilized parts, the nuisance was found to be so great, that it was resolved to destroy them, not only in the Crimea but in all the eastern territories of the Emperor. The police are, in consequence, very active in doing so, and had attacked some who had entered the town with a company of strolling Calmucs, which accounted for the terrific yells we heard.

We were driven to a *tractier*, and shown into an empty filthy room, and managed, after some trouble, to procure a quantity of hay, on which we slept till morning.

20*th*.—Having to make some provision for our journey, it gave me an opportunity of seeing the best part of this prettily-situated town: it is now only in its infancy, but promises soon to become a place of consequence, for many noble public buildings are being erected.

I was much struck with the singular appearance of some Calmuc Tartars, mounted on dromedaries, who had found their way from the steppe of

Astrachan to the bazaar of this town, with skins for sale.

At eleven a. m. we were off, and, soon after passing the barrier, some Tartars from the Crimea accosted us, offering bracelets and a girdle for sale; they were on their way to see some of their relations, who had emigrated to a valley in this neighbourhood, at the time the Russians took possession of their country. During the night some Calmucs had robbed them of a horse, and they were obliged to part with some of their ornaments to purchase another.

It had snowed during the night, in consequence of which the roads were in a frightful condition. Thirty-one versts brought us to the post-station at the extremity of a valley: most of the houses are covered with straw; the scarcity of timber in the whole country through which we have been travelling is much to be regretted. Our carriage was covered with mud, thrown from the horses' feet as they galloped across the steppe. From this we got into a bleak hilly country; no villages, no houses, nor any thing human to be met with, save a few Cossacks, who are stationed at short intervals on the road, as guards; they were covered with bourkas*, and squatted on the ground, whilst their horses were grazing at a short distance from them.

* A felt cape, made of wool and goats' hair; this covering is manufactured by, and is peculiar to, the natives of the Caucasus, who seldom appear beyond the door of their hut without one of them slung over their shoulders.

The country, as we proceed, continues the same desolate, wild, uninhabited waste. Twenty-seven versts brought us to a wretched village: and during the following two stages, to Alexandrovsk, we met with nothing but the turf pyramids, which serve as a guide to travellers across the steppe.

We put up for the night at a wretched hovel in this place, where we were unable to procure any eatables.

21*st.*—Weather still piercing cold; the empty *tractier* we occupied last night furnishes us with nothing but a few sticks, with which we boiled some water, and made tea punch for breakfast, a beverage very common among the Russians.

At seven o'clock this morning, we resumed our journey; the country is still the same. We passed some recruits, and a detachment of infantry, on their way to Tiflis; it snowed hard, and the poor wretches had a most miserable appearance.

We stopped to refresh at the first post-house, where we procured some milk and black bread. An officer, whom we met here, on his way from Georgia, told us, the Cossacks, in this quarter, were great thieves; and that they possessed four or five horses each, which they had stolen from the Circassians.

At eleven a. m. we set off again; our route lay across a dreary waste of forty versts. We passed a regiment of Don Cossacks, on their way home from the war. I was told, they were greatly

diminished in number, and they had every appearance of being sickly.

The day continued excessively cold, and the bleakness of the steppe rendered it miserable travelling: about noon we caught a view of the Besh Tan (or Five Mountains), lying on our right, over which we observed the high chain of the Caucasus, extending to the Elborus, whose lofty peak, covered with eternal snow, seemed to command the whole line of mountains.

The next stage (twelve versts) brought us to Georgièosk, which we entered about two p. m., and procured lodgings at the house of a Russian peasant, where we were huddled together in a small miserable room, furnished with a table and two or three chairs only.

This is a straggling modern-built town, on a rise of the plain, close on the banks of a small river (the Podkuma); its situation is very exposed, for the only shelter is from a few stunted trees in the gardens round the town. It is of some consequence, however, to Russia, as a military depôt, and is protected by several batteries, all well mounted with cannon.

22nd.—The gentlemen are gone to Karass, to visit the Scotch colony, and the baths in its neighbourhood; the former is thirty versts from this, and the latter seven versts further.

This colony was established in 1806, by a charter from the Emperor Alexander, granted to the

Scotch missionaries; and, although principally inhabited by Germans, it still retains its original name.

The Russian establishments benefit much by the industry of the colonists, who supply them with corn, vegetables of all kinds, and tobacco; the latter article is cultivated in great abundance, and is in high estimation in the Crimea; they also trade in skins and wax.

The baths are in so much repute, that the nobility from many parts of Russia resort to them during the season.

23*rd*.—To-day I observed some Circassians at work in chains, with a strong guard over them. The system of robbing is so innate in this people, that they frequently expose themselves, in their excursions, to such great danger, as not to be able to effect a retreat.

The principal occupation of the Kabardian and Ossetinian tribes (who are friendly to the Russian government) is hunting, and predatory excursions, and those who excel in the latter are accounted the greatest men. During the government of Yermolof, and the early occupation of Georgia by Russia, when supplies were continually passing the Caucasus, they frequently attacked, and carried them off; if taken, they were immediately banished to Siberia, but now are treated with more lenity—that being resorted to only on a second offence.

The caravans, at the present day, being so strongly guarded, they see no chance of success

against them; they are now more attentive to the goods and chattels of their neighbours, and invariably rob each other.

The generality of Circassians are tall, well-proportioned men, carry themselves very upright, and are bold and independent; they are in numerous tribes, most of which have their own language—as far as I could learn, there are upwards of thirty. The prevalent religion is Mahometanism; some, however, are Heathens—I believe many have lately become Christians.

The country extends from the Black Sea to the Caspian, a distance of three hundred and seventy miles, and about eighty miles in breadth.

The dress of the Circassians consists of a cap, frock, trowsers, and knee-caps—all of the same stuff, made of camel's hair, and generally of a black or dark cream colour, embroidered with silver lace. The cap is in the form of a melon, the lower part trimmed with shaggy lamb skin; the ringlets hang about their face and ears, and give a very ferocious appearance to the countenance. The frock is ornamented on each breast with a small pocket, above which is a row of cartridges, the whole neatly decorated with narrow lace and red morocco; the waist is bound round very tightly with a narrow blue leathern belt, studded with a row of ornamented silver buttons. The knee-caps are tied under the knee; and their shoes, which are made of black morocco leather (cut out of one piece), bordered with lace,

are worn so tight, that it requires much skill to draw them on. Their sword (the scabbard of which is covered with black and red leather, embroidered in like manner), hangs from the shoulder by a very narrow blue belt, ornamented with silver. The pistol is suspended from the neck by a piece of black braid, and is thrust into their belt behind them. Their kinjal, or dagger, is on the left side, suspended from the waist-belt, where they also carry other useful articles, such as a gun-screw, a silver box filled with grease, for their arms, &c. A neat flat powder-horn, ornamented with silver, is kept in the pocket, underneath the cartridges; and, when mounted, they carry a gun, which is suspended in a case at their back, and are completely covered with a bourka, and a bashluck, or hood, made of camel's hair*.

The bridle consists of a plain snaffle, a blue leather headstall and rein, without any buckles: the saddle is particularly small, and very light; the seat is composed of a cushion, handsomely ornamented, and covered with various coloured leather. Their horses are ordinary in appearance, and are seldom shod; yet are very swift, sagacious, and excellent swimmers; in fact, a Circassian horse is capable of doing almost any thing.

* The chiefs of tribes (princes) are generally of the blood royal, and are distinguished on extraordinary occasions by wearing armour. When they visit a neighbouring prince, or go to war with another tribe, they invariably appear in their coat of mail.

24th.—Procured horses, and left at five p. m. We are anxious to join a convoy, which is to leave Yekaterinograd to-morrow. During the night we travelled upwards of seventy versts, over a level country; the roads were excellent, and, aided by a clear moon, we were enabled to arrive by two o'clock the following morning. We managed to get into a Russian dwelling, where we warmed ourselves at the *pitch* (stove), and partook of some refreshment.

25th.—On applying for horses, we were surprised to find that posting ceased here, although our *poderozne* had been made out and paid for up to Tiflis—this is one instance of Russian honesty!

We were, however, fortunate in hiring four horses, for the remainder of our journey, from the commanding officer. It was now ten o'clock a. m., the convoy had been on the road since six; we started, and two Cossacks were appointed to accompany us till we came up with them.

Immediately on leaving the town we crossed the river Terek, and in about half an hour fell in with the head of the cavalcade, consisting of about five hundred carts, arranged in three lines, eight or ten carriages, and Georgian, Armenian, and Russian merchants; the whole, even the carters, being well armed, and guarded by a twelve pounder, drawn by six horses, a party of infantry, and a troop of Cossacks. We proceeded slowly, which was tiresome to us after having been accustomed to swift travelling. We were prevented from seeing

the surrounding country by a dense fog, which prevailed all day. At five p. m. we arrived at a small redoubt, fifteen versts having been the extent of our day's march; here we were lodged in the house of a soldier, where we found so little room, that it was clever work to go in and out without touching each other.

26th.—At seven a. m. the drum beat, and in half an hour it repeated its order for travellers to muster; the confusion amongst the carts was laughable, every one endeavouring to get a foremost place; at eight we commenced our march: the morning was foggy, and did not clear up sufficiently to enable us to get a view of the mountains; we were on a level steppe all day, with the Terek on our right; about twelve at noon the drum beat for a general halt, by the side of a small rivulet, where horses, oxen, buffaloes, and men partook of refreshment, and in about half an hour we resumed our journey. Soon after five p. m. we arrived at the redoubt and river Uruck, having performed only twenty-five versts in nine hours.

We were lodged in the government house, in a commodious room set apart for strangers. We bought hay for beds, and some wood to cook three pheasants, which I purchased here for the value of one shilling; they are as low as two pence each, are very plentiful in this quarter, and of a delicious flavour.

27th.—We were under way again this morning by eight o'clock: it had been a sharp frost during

the night, and is now very foggy; it cleared up about eleven, and became afterwards very fine. The mountains made their appearance, and we found ourselves on a level well-cultivated country. I observed several Circassian villages of the Ossetinian tribe; the few natives we saw at work were stout, active-looking men; some boys, about ten years of age, I saw, carried a dagger. About noon we met a company of infantry, and a party of Cossacks, with a cannon, whom the officer, commanding our escort, desired to fall in and return with us, for security, as we were now approaching a narrow valley, where the convoys used formerly to be attacked.

The only way the officer could account for so great a convoy of military stores and merchandize as the present, passing at one time, was, that they were anxious to cross the Caucasus before any snow fell, which would obstruct the passage, as it was getting late in the season.

The demand for every article of merchandize in Tiflis is at this moment said to be very great, on account of the military establishments in Georgia being augmented by the war.

We passed a Circassian prince, attended by his two sons, and a priest; his party, in all, consisted of about nine, all well armed and mounted; they passed the Russians in proud disdain.

The latter part of this day's journey lay through a continuation of valleys, rich in pasturage, and well wooded. I observed one party of Cossacks

pulling down a handsome minaret, whilst another were on guard to protect them from attack. The cavalcade was obliged to fall into one line here, and extended about three versts, from the van to the rear. About noon, and a little beyond a redoubt, we made a halt, for about half an hour, to refresh. Having cleared the valley, which was about fifteen versts long, we came to some low woodland, abounding in game of various descriptions, amongst others, woodcocks, pheasants, and the wild boar: it is a singular circumstance that no hares are to be found in this country.

Ten versts, across a steppe, brought us to the redoubt of Arden. We arrived at half-past six p.m., having performed forty versts during the day. This fortress is partly surrounded by the Terek, which is very shallow here, and runs rapidly, making a great noise. We lodged in the government house, and fared well, partaking of some macaroni, boiled in our kettle, baked sheep's heads, which we purchased of a Russian soldier, sea biscuit, and a moderate quantity of watky and Donskoy wine, a kind of champagne, brought from the Don.

I had slept in our carriage hitherto, in preference to the filth of the houses we were forced to occupy, but was obliged to abandon it now, in consequence of the cold.

28*th*.—We started again this morning by eight o'clock; it was foggy, but cleared up about ten, when we found ourselves immediately in the

neighbourhood of the Caucasus, and directly under Kasbek; our road lay over a fertile plain of thirty-five versts, on which were several Ossetinian villages; the natives were employed ploughing, with oxen.

I could not help admiring so many desirable spots along the sides of the mountains, wooded, and watered by the numerous little streams which fall from them, with a vast expanse of plain, of the best soil, for agriculture.

Having crossed the Terek, which is wide and rapid here, we arrived at Vladikavkaz by half-past four p. m.; we procured lodgings at the house of an officer's widow, where we were well treated by our hostess and her sister. The husbands of both these ladies had fallen in an encounter with the Circassians, but a short time ago. The miserable pittance allowed them, by the Emperor, is barely sufficient to procure the common necessaries of life.

This town much resembles Georgièosk, a military depôt, and stands close on the banks of the river. As in the former town, there is a considerable hospital here.

29th.—We remained here to-day, and made some provision for passing the Caucasus. I found every thing very dear, in comparison with what we had been accustomed to of late. I observed several of the inhabitants of the mountains, Ossetinian and Inguish tribes, who had come down to

the weekly bazaar, or market. They have a fierce and sly, lowering look, whilst their manner of dress, and the quantity of arms they carry, adds to their wild appearance. I noticed lads, about thirteen years of age, mounted on the swift Circassian horse, equipped in precisely the same manner as the men.

I tasted some very good wine here, brought from Mozdok, and observed a bear skin, hanging at a shop door, quite fresh; on inquiry, I was told, that the whole line of mountains are infested with them, and also by the wolf.

30*th*.—We are off this morning, and left the heavy carts and merchandize, and proceeded with the carriages and a few light carts, attended by a party of Cossacks and infantry; we were told the merchandize would occupy at least eight days more than we should in crossing the mountains, although we only travelled at the rate of four versts an hour.

The Kasbek is in view, but at some distance, and is seen towering above all the rest of the higher chain of mountains in this quarter. We traversed seven versts, over a pretty plain, and then entered a valley and defile of mountains, joining the river Terek, which runs impetuously through this wild scenery. After travelling twenty-five versts in this valley, over very indifferent roads, we arrived at the pretty village of Lars. An old stone tower, built on a rock, seems once to have defended the entrance to the village, which is inhabited by

an Ossetinian prince and his son. Our party paid him a visit on arriving, and again in the morning previous to our departure; he displayed his coat of mail, which every noble and prince of Circassia possesses. We lodged in a very comfortable government house, and were off by six a. m.

31*st.*—The morning was cold, the mountains frightfully high on each side of us, with the rapid Terek running at our side; little or no verdure was visible, and every object wore a winterly and wild appearance. As we proceeded the valley became narrow, and, at one place, there was scarcely room for the river and the road. The pass of Dariel is grand, picturesque, and dangerous in the extreme: one of the carriages, having the hood up, had it broken to pieces passing under a projecting rock. An Ossetinian cart, we were in the act of passing, upset on the brink of a frightful and narrow descent, hanging over the river; this circumstance placed the whole line of carriages in imminent danger—we all rendered our assistance to set the cart upright, and were fortunate enough to succeed, and arrived safe at the bottom.

We made a short halt at a military station, where our guards were relieved by others; it is opposite the ruins of the Castle of Dariel. From this we had some steep and narrow ascents to pass, before we arrived at the village of Kasbek, where begins the country of Georgia; this is considered the finest position for a view of Kasbek,

with the monastery on the summit of another mountain immediately underneath it. One of the neatest churches I ever remember seeing is in this village, built by the order of a Georgian princess; it is entirely of stone, walls, roof, and steeple. After refreshment we descended into a beautiful, fertile, and well-populated valley, inhabited by Caucasian tribes, intermixed with Georgians. Many villages are to be met with on each side of the Terek, and at the entrance of every branching valley; each village has a square-built tower, of stone; the same material is used for houses, they are even roofed with it, on account of the scarcity of wood.

The road from Kasbek to Kobi (sixteen and a half versts) gave us some hilly work; towards the latter part of it the high mountains, covered with eternal snow, had a wild effect, as we descended into a marshy plain, about two versts before arriving at our destination.

In this wretched and unhealthy spot is a military station, placed immediately at the entrance of three valleys, under a very lofty mountain. Here we got into another government house, and found wood so very dear, that it was difficult to procure sufficient to boil our kettle for three rubles (2*s*. 6*d*.) The stove in which we made a fire had not been lighted for a length of time; the consequence was, that it gave us all, more or less, the head-ache; two of the party were very ill; I was a little inclined

that way, till I took a dram, and a pipe, which had the desired effect, although unpleasant in the morning.

November 1*st.*—Left here this morning, by seven o'clock; it was very cold, with piercing winds from the mountains. We purchased three horses from a Russian officer whom we met with here, on his way from the war.

We had to encounter some rapid and narrow ascents and descents: it was a sharp frost, and the mountain streams, crossing the roads, being frozen, we had great difficulty in getting on at any reasonable pace, the roads being so very indifferent.

The mountains become very grand and imposing, as we proceed; we passed several mineral springs, on both sides of the road; I filled some bottles, and found the waters very pleasant, and not unlike those of Ems or Wiesbaden. The cold winds, contrasted with the extreme heat of the sun at mid-day, told us we were approaching to a great height, which proved true, for we soon arrived at the highest point of the Pass. There is a stone cross erected here, to commemorate the completion of the road, by the Russians, in 1809. The descent is very steep and dangerous. Having arrived in the valley, half an hour brought us to another high ascent; the road is cut on the side of the mountain, round which it winds, with a narrow valley at the bottom. This point of view is scarcely to be equalled; we could clearly distinguish villages,

houses, flocks, and almost the source of the river Aragua, beneath us. We continued descending, and at three p. m. made the pretty and romantic military station of Kashaur, sixteen versts having occupied us eight hours. After refreshing our wearied cattle, we proceeded for Passananoor (twenty versts), where we began to meet with the inhabitants of Georgia. Four versts from whence we started brought us to a most frightful descent, winding in a zig-zag direction, from the summit of the mountain to the river, which flows through the valley at the bottom. I was on horseback, but dismounted, and had great difficulty in keeping my horse from stumbling over me.

In the valley of Passananoor we observed various kinds of merchandize, from Moscow, strewed over some acres of ground; and Georgian carts, drawn by buffaloes, exchanging their loads with the Russian conveyances. From this we proceeded through a delightful valley, by the side of the Aragua, the mountains on each side covered with fine trees; we still continued the descent, though it was very gentle.

Being anxious to reach Passananoor before it became dark, I passed the carriage, and rode on; it soon, however, became so. Numerous fires are kept up by the Georgian carters, who bivouac in the forest, by the road-side; and Passananoor being a little off the road, I mistook one of those fires for it; and, riding towards it, passed the village. On

discovering my mistake, I thought the village must be still farther, and continued trotting on. It was now so dark that I could not see my horse's head: ten o'clock came, and yet no signs of a village; I passed several Ossetinians, and now and then a Georgian, who called out heartily before I came close upon them. I had now got out of the road, when one of those strangers called to me, and even put me right. I proceeded, and soon arrived at a bridge, which I dismounted to examine, my suspicions that all was not right being raised by the snorting of my horse. I found it broken in several places. Here I was at a loss how to act; I still thought I could not have passed the station, when I heard the voice of some one calling; I heeded not, and was proceeding to cross the best part of the bridge, when I again heard the same voice, and the noise of horses' feet. I began to feel about, for something to defend myself, when I found that it was a Cossack, who had been sent after me. I was nine versts beyond the station! and most cheerfully returned with the veteran. We turned off the road to a Georgian hut, where a fire was blazing outside the door, surrounded by ten or fifteen natives, some sleeping, covered with their bourkas; we got some refreshment, and proceeded back; on arriving, I found the gentlemen were obliged to occupy an out-house—as wretched an accommodation as we had met with since leaving the Isle of Taman; I was tired, and

threw myself down on some hay, and slept soundly till morning.

2nd.—Left at six, a. m. During the night there had been a sharp frost, but the morning was fine. We retraced the wild and beautiful scenery in which I was lost last night, twenty-four versts, through a continuation of pretty picturesque valleys, brought us to Ananoor. It was Sunday, and no house was open, excepting the wine shop, and the doors of an old monastery; the former was surrounded by crowds of peasantry, who were dedicating the day to Bacchus.

Two versts from this we arrived at the Quarantine, a neat range of buildings, on a rise near to the road. We stopped here and refreshed our horses, and then proceeded over a hilly country, bare, but cultivated, to Dushet, ten versts from Ananoor.

The position of this little town is very desirable; there is an old fortified square building here, at present occupied by Turkish prisoners. From this we proceeded to Khartiskarst (twenty-four versts) over a hilly wild country, with very good roads; the latter ten versts were of the richest scenery imaginable; on our left was a valley; and whilst the surrounding forests wore a winterly appearance, this sweet spot was decked in all the bloom of spring. We journeyed through this delightful green wood till night closed on us. We had some difficulty in finding our way, but were

directed by the fires of some merchants, who had bivouacked round the village; the evening was particularly calm, and we distinctly heard the howling of the wolves from the surrounding forests.

We passed an encampment of soldiers; the blaze of their fires, contrasted with the darkness of the night, had a singular effect, and served to keep off the wild beasts which infest the neighbouring forests.

It was ten p. m., when we arrived at the Cossacks' station, in the centre of the village; we were shown into a miserable shed, stinking to a degree, and swarming with rats; it was lucky the weather was fine, for we had but little roof to our house. Nothing could be more dignified than the air with which the officer introduced us to this elegant apartment.

3rd.—We were off this morning early, and almost immediately entered a pretty valley at the junction of the two rivers (Koor and Aragua). We came to the old church of Mskit, built by King Marian, fourteen hundred years ago; near to this is a considerable cathedral, of more modern structure, and built upon the site where once stood the capital of Georgia, and indeed no spot could be better selected for health and natural beauty; several old castles, on the hills near the road-side, and an old stone bridge over the river Koor, said to have been built by Pompey, is a sufficient proof of what this place must once have been. * Having

crossed the bridge, we travelled, with the river on our left, over a very bad road; some of the scenery was very picturesque.

When about eight versts from Tiflis, we arrived at a plain, on the borders of which were some gardens, where the Georgians were busily employed pulling the grape, which is of a very superior quality here.

After leaving the plain, we travelled close on the right bank of the river, with a cheerful view at the extremity of the valley before us. On the opposite side of the river we saw a German colony; soon after which we arrived at the barrier of Tiflis, where we deposited our passports. The entrance into the city is lively, the road being constructed on the side of an eminence, which overlooks the town. We passed a fine building (the residence of the governor), and having traversed a few streets, alighted at a poor hotel (and the only one in the town), which is kept by a Frenchman.

CHAPTER IV.

Tiflis—Loss of Three Horses—Public Buildings — Cleanliness — Population — Georgians — Handsome Females — Trade — Preparations for Campaign—Productions of adjacent Provinces—Russian Policy—Military Encampments — Paskevitch — Turkish Prisoners — Army — Varna — Arrival of Reinforcements —Plague—Wine Cellars — Departure from Tiflis—Tartar Houses — Caucasus—Tartar Women — Cemeteries — Villages — Rocks — Comfortless Travelling—Caravan of Camels —Snipes and Ducks—Erivan — Garrison — View of Mount Ararat — Hermitage—Snow Storm—Lost—Seven Churches of Tiridates— Eagles — Vultures — Rice Fields — Persian Muleteers—Araxes—Ferry—Persia— Koordish Robbers—Makoo—Persian Prince—Antipathy to Russia—Mineral Springs—Jackals —Vultures—Hot Springs — Wild Boars — Hyenas—Tabreez.

November 4th.—NOTHING can be more enlivening than the general appearance of this busy city; the shops of the artisans are open to the street, and the mixture of costumes, moving in all directions, forms a variegated scene, and reminded me, at first sight, of Naples.

This morning our coachman (a German), with two of his own horses, accompanied by the interpreter, who rode in the calash with him, leading three others belonging to us, very foolishly drove into the river, to wash them; the whole were immediately carried away by the rapidity of the current—the men narrowly escaped with their lives, three horses were drowned, and the carriage much damaged;—the police were very active in rendering every assistance.

11*th*.—A whole week has been employed in repairing our clothing and equipage, during which time I have been enabled to see most parts of the city; it is composed of a mixture of European and Asiatic buildings, the old houses are of brick, and the modern ones of stone, covered with cement; the only edifices worthy of notice are—the governor's palace, arsenal, hospital, barracks, police office, the castle (which is nearly full of Turkish prisoners), the Greek, Armenian, and Georgian churches, and one very pretty mosque; there are also some most excellent natural hot baths in the town.

The streets are narrow and confined, but the Russians are making great progress in widening them, and are very strict with the inhabitants, in making them keep the street in front of their houses clean, which adds much to the comfort of the town. I have no doubt but that, in a few

years, Tiflis may rank with any second class of cities in Europe.

The population is upwards of forty thousand, and consists of Georgians, Armenians, Russians, Germans, Tartars (various tribes), and Circassians, with Lesguins, Mingrelians, Immeritians, and a few Persians, Jews, and Turks.

The Georgians are a fine, robust, and healthy people, fond of manly exercises, but are in general addicted to drinking; the women have been, at all times, celebrated for their personal attractions, and they are, without exception, the handsomest females I ever met with. Previous to the Russians taking possession of this country, it was customary for the sex to be veiled; now they have not only thrown aside that, but invariably display more of their person than is consistent with English ideas of modesty.

Trade is in a flourishing condition here, and likely to improve daily, owing to the present success of the Russian arms in the East. The two principal productions of the country are wine and silk; the province of Kachetia, in particular, is noted for the excellence of the former. Silk is sent in large quantities to Moscow, in exchange for other merchandize; the Armenians, who monopolize the trade, make great purchases of Persian produce. There is a silk manufactory established here, where upwards of one hundred hands have

been employed; but the concern has not made any returns as yet.

Paskevitch is making every arrangement for the spring campaign. I was told reinforcements would be sent him by sea, from the Crimea and Odessa; at present all are anxiously looking forward for the result of the approaching war. It is hoped that a sea-port, possessing a good harbour, south of Poti, now Turkish, will fall into the hands of the Russians, as it will enable the transportation of merchandize to come direct from the Mediterranean into the very heart of Upper Asia. Should this take place, as well as the construction of a post road from the Isle of Taman, by Anapa, along the shores of the Black Sea, south of the Caucasus, to Poti, Redouthcale, or Koutais, to Tiflis, it will enable Georgia and the neighbouring countries to be frequented with facility by the modern traveller, and also benefit the inhabitants with the luxuries of the more civilized countries, which are at present scarcely known in these parts. In the petty provinces of Mingrelia, Gouria, and Immeritia, are extensive forests, abounding in mulberry trees, walnut, and box wood; the silk worm is also very plentiful. No doubt the policy of Russia is heightened by her present success, and it is evident they anticipate much from what is to come. Should they proceed with caution, and be allowed to maintain their footing as they advance in these countries, what may be thought of their ultimate

designs, having, as it is, Georgia, and adding Armenia to their possessions.

There are several military encampments in the vicinity of Tiflis, as well as a strong garrison in the castle; the major part of the army are returned or on their way from the war, Count Paskevitch having concluded an armistice for six months. Several battalions of infantry, and upwards of one hundred and fifty pieces of light artillery, have arrived within the last few days; they had, in all, a rusty appearance, although a fine body of men.

Count Paskevitch not only succeeded, in a masterly way, in the war against the Persians, in 1826, when he added the rich provinces of Erivan and Nukshevan, and extended the Russian territories to the river Araces, but his success has been complete in a series of engagements against the Turks, who have shown no lack of courage in the late war. I was told the campaign was begun with an army not exceeding nineteen thousand; they took several places of consequence, such as Kars,* another strong fortress, and Akhalstic: during the siege of the latter town, Paskevitch endured great privations, from sickness in the camp and want of supplies for his army. I was told he was entrenched several days before the town, when the Turks made a desperate sortie,

* The population at that time being upwards of 28,000.

and were worsted, leaving upwards of five hundred dead on the field; during this time Paskevitch assaulted the town, in an opposite direction, when, after a fierce encounter, fortune crowned the cool and brave conduct of the Russians with success. The carnage in this affair was not correctly ascertained, but the Russian bulletins announced the loss of the Turks to amount to upwards of seven thousand; it may be admitted, that six thousand actually fell. Nothing could exceed the desperation with which the Mussulmen fought: the priests having urged them to acts of the greatest bravery, by entreating them to uphold their religion against Infidels; the women were seen fighting by the sides of their husbands; and an officer told me, he witnessed a woman escape from a party of infantry, and rush into a house then burning, where she perished in the flames.

As far as I could learn, the strength of the surviving army (Russians) does not exceed twelve thousand, so that they must have paid dearly for their victories.

The Pachas of Kars and Bayazeed are prisoners here, on *parole;* the amount of Turkish prisoners, in and about Tiflis, may perhaps be from sixteen to eighteen hundred, and are kept constantly at work.

I saw several pieces of light artillery, which were taken in the last campaign; the Emperor has honoured Count Paskevitch with them, as a reward for his gallant conduct. This nobleman is governor of the Caucasus and Georgia, where he

has almost sovereign power; and the army at his disposal may, probably, amount to ninety-six or one hundred thousand men.

18*th*.—To-day we have news of the taking of Varna, by extraordinary courier, in eighteen days from Petersburgh; the town, in consequence, has been much enlivened by the firing of guns from the castle.

Upwards of five hundred carts, with military stores and merchandize, have arrived from Russia within these few days, by way of Kislar, across the Caucasus, bordering the Caspian Sea, through the country of the Lesguins.

25*th*.—The arrival of two battalions of infantry from Akhalstic, where the plague is now raging, has caused some consternation here; and the fear of their bringing that frightful malady with them has been greatly augmented by the sudden death of one of their surgeons and two of his servants—their remains, together with all their effects, were immediately burnt.

The German colony in the neighbourhood supply the market with vegetables, milk, butter, cheese, and beer.

The Georgians keep their wine in skins, and the interior of their cellars have more the appearance of a slaughter-house, than what they really are; bullocks' hides are filled, as well as those of swine, sheep, and goats—all are strewed about the shops, and look like so many cattle.

We have sold our carriage, and purchased more

horses, with an intention of visiting Persia. The weather during our stay here has been particularly fine, and still continues so.

Having made arrangements with some Persians for mules (part of a caravan which had arrived here from Teheran but a short time ago), we hope to bid adieu to Tiflis to-morrow.

29th.—We were occupied the greater part of this morning in arranging our baggage, and selecting horses and saddles. We were not able to clear the town before three p. m. Close to the custom-house was an encampment of infantry, with a park of light artillery. We continued in a valley, for nine versts, to the village of Saganlouck; it was dark before we arrived. Having an order for protection, from the police, as far as the Russian dominions extended, we sent to a captain of a hundred, who furnished us with a lodging something novel to what we had hitherto met with. The Georgian or Tartar dwellings are seldom to be found above ground; they resemble a saw pit, or square hole, dug in the earth; the top is covered with beams of wood, branches of trees, &c., and, above all, is a coat of earth, which makes it level with the ground. They are only to be distinguished by the smoke which issues from a hole in the roof, The natives are frequently disturbed, when sitting round their fire, by the leg of some unfortunate cow or camel making its appearance down the chimney; and it is not

uncommon for the lambs, whilst skipping on the roof, to fall through, and spoil whatever they may happen to be cooking. The entrance, which frequently serves for five or six habitations, commences at some distance, and inclines, until it is on a level with the floor, in the centre of which is an oven, sunk in the earth, about two feet in diameter; it is heated by putting either wood or a kind of peat in the bottom, and the bread (which is not unlike the barley-meal cakes of Scotland) is stuck round the inside; and the top being covered with a stone, they are baked in a few minutes. During cold weather, they heat this oven in the morning, which warms the room sufficiently for the remainder of the day. These burrows (for such they certainly are) are furnished with mats, carpets, and cushions, some pegs to hang clothes upon, jars for water and sour milk, skins of goats or sheep, filled with cheeses, millet, barley, and rice, a loom for weaving hair sacking, round stones for grinding their corn, sieves, arms, and the skins of foxes or jackals which have been killed in their hunting excursions.

We found that all the preparations we had made during our stay in Tiflis were insufficient for the journey we have now commenced; by the time we arrive at our present destination, we may be better able to judge what it is necessary for travellers to provide for a tour through this country.

30*th*.—We left this morning early; the weather

is still very cold and windy; indeed, you feel the difference of temperature immediately on quitting Tiflis, and the country appears bleak and uninteresting. We had a fine, and perhaps an unequalled, view of the Caucasus, extending far beyond the Kazbek in one direction, and stretching out towards the Caspian sea in another, as far as the eye could reach. About four p. m. it blew a complete tempest, and we determined on halting at a village, twenty-three versts from whence we started. It is highly amusing to see men, horses, and mules, picking their way over the roofs of the houses, to avoid falling into the chimneys.

I went with our interpreter into several dwellings, in search of some place where we might pass the night, and came unperceived upon two very pretty Tartar women, who were both seated on carpets and busily employed, one weaving a narrow hair web, the other grinding corn between two round stones; their hair was plaited, and hanging over their shoulders, covered with various sorts of gold and silver pieces of money; they wore a sort of black turban, a short red silk jacket, and blue trowsers, very full, not unlike those worn by Cossacks, excepting that they were of cotton; round their waist was a girdle of some sort of metal. No sooner did they observe us, than they covered their faces with the end of their turban, which hangs over their left shoulder; but I noticed them to take advantage of a moment when we were

engaged with their countrymen, and peep from beneath it; no doubt the novelty of our costume was as interesting to them, as their's appeared to us. The master of the house came in, and assisted us in procuring a lodging; no doubt glad to render his services *gratis*, rather than suffer us to remain with the ladies.

December 1*st*.—This is a remarkably cold morning. We resumed our journey at seven o'clock; and twelve versts over a bare plain brought us to a miserable village, where we succeeded in procuring some millet cakes, milk, and eggs for breakfast: we then remounted our horses, and proceeded. The dreariness of the morning's ride was repaid by the delightful scenery of the afternoon; we passed some very pretty Tartar cemeteries on the road-side, and, towards the close of day, arrived at the village of Karasarang, fifty versts from where we started in the morning. The natives behaved very kindly in providing us with every necessary their village could afford; some of them, however, managed to rob one of our muleteers of his clothing. We endeavoured, by remonstrances and threats, to recover them; but this had not the desired effect.

2*nd*.—We were under way this morning by seven a. m. Our route lay through a most delightful, well-wooded, and mountainous country, watered by small streams and numerous springs. We passed some well-populated villages; the

natives appeared healthy, and the gardens round their cottages were abundant in every description of useful vegetables. During the afternoon, we entered a narrow valley, and joined a river, on the banks of which were some basaltic rocks, of very singular architectural form. About two p. m. we made the village of Caravanserai, on the left bank of the river.

We find a great change for the worse, as regards comfort, between travelling through this country and the Caucasus; when under an escort, in the latter, we could generally meet with hay, which served us for beds; but here, if you are not content with lying on a mat or filthy carpet (perhaps swarming with vermin), you must pass the night in the best manner you can. Our horses are only divided from us by a partition of reed mats; they also fare worse, having nothing but the bare earth to lay on; and it is a custom with the Tartar *suridjes* (or grooms), when on a journey, never to take off the saddles, except to have them repaired.

3rd.—Left at nine o'clock this morning: our road lay through a narrow valley, by the side of the same stream we journeyed with yesterday; we were surrounded by very pretty hills, and continued the whole day ascending through a succession of valleys. Towards evening we arrived at the little village of Dillengan, situated at the foot of some high mountains, where we put up for the night; the only inhabitants here,

are a few Armenian guards; the villagers having fled on the approach of the Persians in 1826, and have not since returned. We should have been very comfortable in our lodging (a stable), but for the united attack of an innumerable body of fleas.

4th.—Were off early this morning, and began ascending the mountains immediately after leaving the village. About noon we arrived at the summit, and met a caravan of camels, on their way to Tiflis, with cotton, from Persia; the poor animals did not seem to relish the snow, and appeared timid in stepping amongst it. Our descent lay through a very confined pass; we were prevented seeing a lake on our left, by the drifting of the snow, which darkened the air. Towards evening we arrived at the village of Sodaghan (thirty-six versts from Dillengan), situated in an immense uncultivated plain, surrounded by barren mountains. We partook of some lake trout, which were the worst I ever tasted; but the peasantry will eat any thing that has the name of fish.

5th.—Our last night's lodgings were more agreeable than heretofore, for the village, though wretched in appearance, furnished us with a comfortable house, *above ground.* They are built of mud; the entrances are low (about four feet high and two feet wide); the doors are frequently one stone slab, which turns upon a pivot; and the chimneys, merely a hole in the roof, covered with a flat stone. One of our horses (an old trooper)

has made himself particularly familiar with our bread basket; I caught him by the nose, while he was endeavouring to extract some biscuits from beneath a carpet, during the night;—this is not his first offence.

The weather being very boisterous, we were under the necessity of keeping the doors closed, and I went upon the top of our house to remove the stone from the chimney, and give vent to the smoke, which annoyed the horses as well as ourselves; it was quite dark, and I mistook our roof for that of a neighbour (for most of them join each other), and, in descending, fell, head first, from the top, a distance of five or six feet.

The day is inclement, and our journey appears disheartening, the country being wild in the extreme, barren rocky mountains, little herbage, and no wood; the face of the whole country appears to be volcanic. We are fast approaching Mount Ararat, and hope for a view of it to-morrow. We arrived early this afternoon at the village of Yelkowan, having made thirty-three versts during the day.

There is a caravanserai here, occupied by a party of infantry and Cossacks. Game appears plentiful, and the soldiers seem to benefit more by shooting wild ducks, and selling them, than from what they receive from the Emperor; for the whole expense of a Russian infantry soldier does not exceed two pounds six shillings per annum,

and their yearly pay is only about one ducat (ten shillings). I noticed several strings of water fowl hanging at the entrance of their *barracks;* we bought some for a mere trifle. During the evening we had much difficulty in keeping the calves and goats from our baggage and the fire.

6th.—Left at nine a. m., the weather still very cold, with snow. On quitting the village, we forded a pretty little river, the surface of which was absolutely covered with snipes and ducks. Having continued across a plain (no regular road appearing), about twelve o'clock we passed a village and a ruined church; soon after, the weather partially cleared up, and we observed the base of Mount Ararat; its peak was hid in the clouds. The scenery of this day's journey corresponded with that of yesterday; the last twelve versts were a continual descent, over a stony barren country, into Erivan (twenty versts from whence we started in the morning). After traversing several filthy lanes, between high mud walls, which enclosed the gardens, we arrived at the caravanserai; but the lodging being most miserable, we presented our pass at the police-office, and in a short time were housed in a very neat dwelling, furnished quite in the eastern style; lattice windows, and fine reed matting, with carpets; the recesses in the mud walls, and also the ceiling, were neatly ornamented with a white cement. There is a little garden in front of the

house, but every thing is rendered unpleasant by the lateness of the season, and wet weather.

We remain here for a few days in hopes of procuring letters of introduction to some of the Persian chiefs, on our way to Tabreez. Erivan was, previous to the last war, the capital of Persian Armenia; it is a poor town in comparison with Tiflis, yet may soon become a place of consequence, as the trade appears to increase. There are some well-built brick bazaars, and also a very elegant mosque. The fort is about a quarter of a mile from the town; in the centre of it is a splendid mosque, which they are converting into a church. The garrison is not strong at this moment, no doubt on account of the war against the Turks.

There is an Armenian patriarch here. I believe the present form of their religion was established nearly thirteen hundred years ago; their principal church is at Echmatzen, which they say contains (amongst other relics) a part of the ark!

I chose a fine clear frosty morning to visit the suburbs of the town, and enjoyed a sublime view of the great and little Ararat; lions, bears, hyenas, and rock snakes, are said to infest this and the neighbouring mountains; both the summits were covered with snow; no one, as yet, has succeeded in attaining the top of either. Several extensive glaciers fill up the ravines, immediately under one of which there is an hermitage, about half way

down the mountain, which the natives affirm to have been the habitation of Noah, after the flood.

11*th*.—Having made some little provision for our journey, and procured a guide, we left Erivan at two p. m. About six versts from the town we found ourselves in the mountains; it began to snow, and although we were approaching Mount Ararat, yet we were prevented seeing it. About five, p. m., the snow had completely covered the road, and it now fell so thick as to darken the air. Our guide, after some hesitation, was obliged to confess he did not know where we were, and that we had evidently missed the proper road; we were now placed in a critical situation, for we were nearly two hours in advance of our mules. It continued snowing, and we wandered about the mountains, in search of some place for shelter, until about one o'clock a. m., when we heard a distant murmuring sound; we made towards it, and all at once found ourselves on the brink of a precipice, hanging over a roaring torrent. We were enabled, by the flash we produced from a flint and steel, to use a pocket compass; it, however, proved of little use. By two o'clock we arrived at the ruins of an old church, where we dismounted, with an intention of taking shelter under its walls, till day-light; we were all, more or less, inclined to sleep, but deemed it prudent to keep moving, for fear of the effects of the cold; we therefore remounted our horses, and made

for some ruins, where we mistook a tombstone for a door. We were creeping through a hole, into an old building, to pass the few remaining hours of darkness, when we were surprised by the barking of a dog; we immediately made towards the sound, and after scrambling over the ruins of a village, we came to an old church, full of sheep; here we had the good fortune to meet with our mules, where they had been some time. We had much difficulty in finding room for our horses, and were unable to procure any thing for them to eat. We were all very fatigued, and partook of some little refreshment; after which we laid down in a corner of the church, covered with our cloaks; the shepherds kept up a good peat fire. On inquiring the name of this place, we were told it was Bash Gherni (twenty-six versts from Erivan). It appears that, during the last war, between the Persians and Russians, both armies had passed this way; and the village was laid level with the ground.

This place is celebrated for the seven churches (cut out of the solid rock) of Tiridates, King of Armenia.

12*th*.—On awaking we found ourselves very stiff, from sleeping in wet clothes, on the damp floor of the church. Having forced one of the shepherds to become our guide (for he was not willing to leave his sheep), we made for the village of Aghbash, twenty versts further on. Soon after leaving the church, we entered a

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narrow valley, and followed a small river, which brought us to a few Tartar huts, surrounded with a high mud wall; here we were well treated by the peasantry, who soon made us a fire, and brought us every article of food the village could produce.

13*th*.—We procured a guide, and proceeded over a marshy flat country, for about ten versts; after which we arrived at an immense plain, covered with brush wood, on the verge of which, we passed a village: there is a monastery on a small hill, near it. About ten versts from this brought us to a well-populated village (Devello), twenty-six versts from where we started this morning, where we remained all the next day (Sunday).

15*th*.—Resumed our journey on the plain; we had a fine view of Mount Ararat, as the sun was shedding its bright rays upon the lofty peak, whilst its base was encompassed with clouds; we begin to meet with quantities of eagles and vultures, as we proceed. After travelling about twenty versts, we came to the end of the plain, and, passing a defile of hills, we entered a level country, well peopled and cultivated; numerous herds of sheep and oxen appeared everywhere. We passed numbers of well-populated villages; the natives were busy at work in the rice fields, which are annually flooded by the Araxis*; we

* The extent of country between the Caucasus and this river may be about four hundred miles.

cross it to-morrow. It became night by the time we had performed a distance of forty-two versts, and arrived at Yenghya, where we were fortunate in getting lodgings in a comfortable hut.

16*th*.—Left early this morning, accompanied by a guide; the weather is very cold, with a severe frost; most of the ditches we had to cross were frozen over. Our poor Persian muleteers (fellows six feet high), have been crying like school boys, and one attempted to run away from us, he was so much disheartened by the cold. In two hours from the village we arrived on the left bank of the Araxis; here we had to embark our cattle, in a diamond-shaped flat-bottomed boat; we were obliged to leap them in and out. Nothing can be more unsafe and ridiculous than the stupidity of the boatmen, who had a rope to make fast the boat on arriving at the opposite side, but which was not strong enough to bear the weight of a man; it broke, and we were all but carried away by the current. We are now in Persia.

I observed some lava rocks close to the river; this side of it is wild and barren in the extreme. We were apprised of the necessity of keeping with our baggage, on account of the Koordish robbers, who infest these parts at this time of the year. It was evening by the time we had travelled twenty-six versts, to the village of Dhessa: the chief provided us with a comfortable lodging.

17*th*.—We proceeded on our route this morning, with the intention of paying a visit to an independent Koordish prince, at the town of Makoo. We continued over a sameness of country for fifteen versts, and during the day passed several neat mud villages, and immense flocks of sheep; a small river we had to ford was rendered very dangerous, by the shoals of ice that were floating down the stream; one of our mules was upset by one of them; the baggage was completely soaked before we could get him out. The approach to Makoo is through a highly romantic pass in the mountains; the rocks which hang over the road have the appearance of immense buildings. When within a few versts of the fortress we met with the two sons of the prince, hawking; they observed, and hailed us lustily; we sent our guide, to inform them who we were, and that we had letters to the prince; they immediately quitted their sport, and came galloping to meet us.

On learning we were on our way to visit our embassy, at Tabreez, they immediately spoke of an English officer, whom they knew; we had letters from this gentleman, and it was fortunate, as he is a great favourite. We had now arrived at the fort. Nothing can equal the extraordinary appearance of Makoo; the mountains terminate in a crescent, at the end of a narrow valley, and round their base the town is placed. It is sur-

rounded with a wall; and after passing the gates, we had to climb up a steep path, through the town, to the palace of the Khan, which is entered by another fortified gate. It is placed under an alcove of a rock, about three hundred yards high, which frowns over the palace and town. There is a gallery here, which is only accessible by means of a rope; this is a grand secret, and no European, excepting one Englishman, ever saw it; we were not allowed that privilege. The continual echo which is kept up, by the talking of the people in the town below, has a singular effect. The khan and his son were dressed in scarlet robes, ornamented with silver lace, red silk trowsers, yellow boots, and the black Persian lamb-skin cap; their long black hair and beards had a fine manly appearance.

The apartments are very spacious; the harem occupies one wing of the palace, and the stabling the other; the hall for visitors is immense, and singularly decorated with all sorts of arms.

The khan has a detached apartment, commanding a bird's-eye view of the whole of his principality. The horses I saw were of the finest breed, from Arabia and Khorassan; the whole might be compared to the castle of some English baron, in the feudal times.

The khan invited the gentlemen to stay another day; they were obliged to consent, in case we might afterwards feel the ill effects of exciting his dis-

pleasure. He endeavoured to amuse his English guests, by paying them every attention. They were all eager to show their dexterity in their various exercises, and fired at icicles hanging from the rock above us, showed horses, displayed their arms, &c. The khan appeared anxious that we should see how careful he was in drilling his foot soldiers in the European manner.

A Cossack officer, with an escort, arrived here during the day, with a Turkish bey, who had letters of importance from Bayazeed to the khan. The Cossack was not allowed to remain all night, such is the antipathy this country bears towards Russia.

19*th*.—We were granted guards, and allowed to depart. We returned, for a short distance, the same road we had come, and then got into an open country, abounding with game. We had splendid views of Mount Ararat during the day; we passed some fine mineral springs at the top of a little hill, on the right of our road, and about half way between Makoo and Karavoina. The extent of this day's journey was thirty-six versts, through a wild barren country.

20*th*.—Were off early this morning. The weather is still very cold, and the ground is covered with snow. We journeyed over a wild bare hilly country, little, if any of it, being inhabited. During the day a flock of red deer crossed us in our road; we noticed quantities of jackals, and

also vultures of a most extraordinary size*. We arrived, weary of our ride, a short time before the close of day, at the village of Karagendan, situated on a plain, a short distance from a high chain of mountains, forty versts having been the extent of our day's march.

21*st.*—Resumed our journey betimes this morning, and crossed the mountains by a very beautiful pass;—never do I remember having seen so many birds of prey.

We descended gradually from the mountains, and got into an extensive plain, on the verge of which, and close at the base of the mountains we had left, we came to the pretty little town of Ifrogli, thirty-six versts from were we left this morning. There are very considerable hot springs here. We were well lodged, and found every thing plentiful.

22*nd.*—We procured a guide here, and proceeded. This day's march was over a sameness of wild, hilly country; but not so bare as that of yesterday. We fell in with a herd of wild boars, and gave chase to them; but our horses were not swift enough to allow us to get within gun shot.

This day's march was long and tedious, having

* I observed upwards of twenty of those birds devouring the dead carcass of a buffalo, which lay on our path; they were so intent on their prey as not to heed our approach, and it was not before I sent several musket balls amongst them that they retired.

come forty versts to the neat village of Kooshui; here we fared well. The natives are acquainted with the English character, being near to Tabreez.

23rd.—The morning is very cold. Soon after leaving the village we crossed some hills, and came to a ruined caravanserai; its remains are still sufficient to shelter the traveller. From this we descended continually into Sophian, having performed thirty-six versts. On entering the town, I was somewhat astonished at the sight of a dead hyena, lying in the street; I was told, this savage animal had come down from the mountains during the night, and was found scratching up the earth in the cemetery, when the natives shot him.

24th.—Were off early this morning, and travelled on the verge of the plain of Tabreez for twenty-six versts, at the foot of a range of low hills. Nothing interesting appeared during the day. A few versts from Tabreez we crossed an old brick bridge, of very irregular architecture; the suburbs we had to pass through, before entering the city, were one continuation of gardens; the system of irrigation appears to be well understood. Having entered at the Tiflis gate, we traversed a number of narrow streets and bazaars, before arriving at the residence of one of our embassy, where we had apartments assigned us.

CHAPTER V.

Christmas-Day at Tabreez—Arsenal—Barracks —Bazaars—Baths—Caravanserais—Mint—Coining—Germans—Cloth Manufactory—Russian Deserters—Abbas Mirza's Invasion of Russia—Departure for Tehran—Jackals —Persian Nobleman travelling—Pillau—Caimack—Sudden change of Climate—Persians insincere—Presents—Caravan—Horses —Miana—Carpets—Poisonous Bugs—Bazaar—Butchers—A Quarrel—Pass of Koflankoo—Fortress—Facility of Invasion—Interesting Scenery—Zingan—Mistaken for Russians by Inhabitants—Snow—Canals—Sultania—Plain—Abhar—Reports of the Massacre of Russian Embassy—Funeral Procession of a Priest—Good Roads—Casvin Hospitality—Our convivial Host—Bazaars —Missed the Road—Tame Pigeons—Salamoni—Palace—Camel Drivers—Plain of Tehran—Arrival—English Palace—Signs of the late Massacre.

December 25th.—We met with a very friendly reception from the gentlemen of our embassy here —a welcome was of itself very gratifying to us, after having come a dreary journey in the depth of winter, but doubly so, when from our own countrymen.

Christmas-day is perhaps as strictly observed by the few Europeans who reside here, as in any other part of the world. The union jack was seen flying on the top of the ambassador's house early in the morning, and we hailed it as an old and valued friend. The gentlemen dined with the embassy; I partook of an excellent dinner of real old English fare (roast beef and plum pudding), but sat down to it in the Persian manner, with a party of the military establishment.

Tabreez is a confused assemblage of low mud edifices, occupying an immense space, and is situated at the base of a line of low barren hills, on the verge of an extensive plain of the same name. On approaching it, nothing is visible above the walls, excepting a few of the principal buildings and the arsenal, in which they are now erecting very considerable barracks. The streets are narrow, confined, and dirty, and, in my opinion, there is not a well-built house in the town. The old bazaars are in a ruinous state, being a mere collection of miserable hovels, covered over with the branches of trees, matting, &c. Some, of a more modern date, however, are well built, spacious, and arched over with bricks; every one of them is distinguished for the sale of its peculiar articles; thus, one is for saddlery alone, another for silks, and so on.

There are a number of baths; but the approaches to them, and their general exterior appearance is horribly filthy and disgusting.

Amongst the numerous caravanserais, those inhabited by the Armenians and Ispahan merchants are considered the best. In one of them, which is partly in ruins, is the mint; I walked in, and was somewhat surprised at the carelessness (compared with other countries) in which the process of coining is carried on here. I was invited by one of the principal workmen to witness it: two men are seated on a bench, one is employed cutting pieces off a bar of silver, and the other in weighing them; they are then put into a charcoal furnace, and when red hot, are taken out, stamped, and immediately afterwards thrown into an earthen pot containing water to cool, after which they are ready for circulation.

The population of Tabreez amounts to about sixty thousand*. Amongst the inhabitants are many Armenians (who have their own church), and a few Germans; some of the latter are employed by the prince to conduct a manufactory for coarse woollen cloth, and others carry on a variety of trades, being at the same time pork butchers, sausage makers, liqueur merchants, and mountebanks, exhibiting occasionally before his highness.

The sergeants in the East India company's service cultivate potatoes, and other European vegetables, with great success,—make their own

* Some travellers have asserted the population to be eighty thousand.

wine, and distil excellent spirit from the grapes, after they have been pressed.

There is a battalion of Russian deserters, commanded by their own officers, in the service of Abbas Mirza; they are now employed in quelling some riots in a distant part of his government. Their ranks will be greatly increased on their return, by the numbers who daily flock here from the army now in Turkey.

At the death of the Emperor Alexander, the forces in Georgia being insufficient to repel any attack from a large army, the Prince Abbas Mirza (who is governor here), thinking it a good opportunity to retaliate upon Russia, and also of gratifying his own ambition, invaded her territories; and being successful in a few skirmishes against Yermeloff, advanced within a day's march of Tiflis; but immediately on the approach of the main body of the Russian army, under Count Paskevitch, he ordered the retreat, and the enemy was allowed to advance unmolested to Tabreez, which they occupied for about three months, their commander living the whole of the time in the royal palace. Thus ended Abbas Mirza's *attempt* at invasion: he first involved his country in a war, and, when called upon to act, showed neither courage nor ability to carry it on. The Russians, resolute in their demands for the fulfilment of the indemnity (two millions sterling), could not come to any terms with the prince; and had not our

embassy interfered, and become guarantee for the restoration of the throne (which was mortgaged to the Russians, and is now I believe in Moscow) the treaty of peace might have remained unsigned to this day.

I was told that, a few days previous to the arrival of the Russians in this city, the retreating Persians entered as if in triumph, carrying the heads of some of the enemy on the points of their bayonets.

February 9th.—Having remained here during the most severe part of winter, and the weather being now much milder, we leave to-morrow for Tehran, about four hundred miles from this.

10*th.*—Our horses and mules were in attendance at an early hour this morning, and, accompanied by a *mehmandar* (purveyor) from the prince, we left for the capital.

The morning is cold, and the roads very indifferent. We ascended a stony and bleak country for one hour, when we passed a summer residence of the prince; at the second hour we came to a neat village, on the top of a hill, from whence we travelled over the same description of country, but covered with snow. During the afternoon we passed a *chapper* (or courier) on his way from the capital to Tabreez. It became moonlight before we reached Sidebad (six *agach*). I remained behind with the baggage, and was highly amused

in observing quantities of jackals running and jumping about in all directions: it appears, that the severity of the weather has obliged them to come down from the mountains in search of food. The dogs of the villages are their most inveterate enemies; the cunning jackal, however, frequently succeeds in robbing the hen-roost, by one party approaching the village, and decoying away the dogs (who eagerly pursue them), whilst another enters and carries away their prey.

I went out about midnight, armed with a musket, loaded with ball, and a bayonet, in hopes of having some sport with these cunning gentry. I met several soon after clearing the village; they came running towards me, but when I levelled my piece, turned off so quickly, that I could not succeed in killing one, after having fired several times, by which the whole village was alarmed, and I was obliged to retire.

11*th*.—Our route this morning lay through a succession of valleys, and across some hills; at the second hour from Sidebad, we passed an old caravanserai, crossed a range of mountains by the narrow and rugged pass of Sibley, and descended into an open extensive country, covered with snow; the path was visible only by the tracks of a caravan which preceded us. At the fourth hour we passed a Persian nobleman *en voyage*, attended by his guards and domestics, about twenty-five in all; they turned off the road by the side of a hill to smoke

the *caleoon*, a custom to which they frequently resort half a dozen times a day.

The horses were of the finest breed, splendidly caparisoned; and the baggage on the mules was covered with handsome carpets.

The *caleoon*-bearer is distinguished from the rest of the party by the smoke issuing from a grate of burning charcoal, which is suspended from the saddle by a chain, under the horse's flank; and a pair of leathern cases (like pistol holsters), for carrying the bottle and other parts of the *caleoon*. The *mirza* (or secretary) may also be known, having an ink-stand and pen-case in his sash, and a roll of writing paper in his breast.

I find the Persians more polite and flattering than the Turks: a traveller (no matter whether he is Christian, Jew, or Mussulman) seldom passes a Persian without receiving the *salaam a laikum*, or "peace be with you," which a Turk will never condescend to do, unless to one of his own persuasion.

At the fourth hour we passed a considerable village, and continued over an open bleak country across the plain of Onjan, to Tickmedach (six *agach*). The latter part of our day's journey was very disagreeable to us, and fatiguing to our horses; the power of the sun during the day, contrasted with the keen frosty wind in the evening, caused our faces to become chapped; and the snow, which was, in many places, three or four feet deep, made it difficult travelling. After having refreshed

off some pillaw and *caimack**, we spread our carpets, and rested till morning.

12*th*.—We began journeying this morning in deep snow again; in one hour we entered a pretty valley, well peopled and cultivated; in the space of another hour we were transported from severe winter into the most luxuriant spring; we continued in this valley for the remainder of the day. Having passed several villages, we arrived at Karacema (six *agach* from Tickmedach), a straggling village at the extremity of the valley, and immediately under a range of rocky hills. I here noticed some very fine horses in use amongst the peasantry; sheep also appeared plentiful, and were feeding in immense flocks in the neighbourhood. The natives continue particularly civil; the only dislike one can have to them is their total want of candour and good faith: it is impossible to rely on any promise they may make, and their flattery, too, is so bare-faced, that you cannot be deceived by it.

Money appears of equal service to the traveller in this country as in Europe; nothing is done without it (if a stranger), unless by the system of giving presents, which, by the bye, is paying double for every article you are furnished with.

Modern travellers appear to have dispensed, in a great measure, with that disgraceful custom, more especially our embassy, who are very delicate

* Boiled rice and clotted cream.

in receiving or giving presents. However, it must be understood, that, when the revenue of a country is derived by that means, it is but natural, under the government of an avaricious monarch, that foreigners must comply with the rules and customs of the country they are in, however scantily they may be supplied with the means of doing so.

13*th*.—On leaving the village we crossed a hill, and journeyed over a sameness of bare open country, in a great measure covered with snow; at the third hour we passed a village, and soon after met a caravan of pack horses, mules, and camels, with merchandise from Ispahan. Some travellers, we observed, and more especially women, rode in a wooden box, not unlike a dog house, suspended one on each side of a camel; some of the natives also use a machine (the *tack-i-ravan)* for travelling, which resembles the *latigua* of Sicily—a sort of light wooden palanquin, carried by two mules. We arrived early this afternoon at the prettily situated town of Turkoman-chi, having performed about five *agach* since the morning. We were comfortably lodged in a house kept for the reception of travellers.

This town is agreeably built, on the side of a pretty stream, bearing the same name with itself, and is celebrated for its breed of excellent horses, some of which are not inferior to those of Arabia or Khorasan. We requested to see some of them, and immediately had upwards of thirty beautiful animals brought to us: we purchased two, one of them was as low as six pounds. The

hack, or common Persian horse, is distinguished from the better sort by the name of *yabou*. Every inhabitant appeared to have a colt or horse for sale; they are very careful of their cattle, and keep them warm, both in and out of the stable: their clothing is a species of carpet, or felt, fastened round them by a hair girth; their saddles are very light, and the bridle bit is seldom more than a plain snaffle. The horses are not divided by stalls, as in Europe; but are secured from fighting each other by a rope, which is tied to their hind legs, and fastened to a stake in the ground. Several which I rode were not above three years old, and as tractable and docile as aged horses in England.

14*th*.—Our route to-day was over a sameness of level, open country, for six *agach*, to Miana, celebrated for the manufacture of carpets, and remarkable also for a kind of poisonous bug, which is considered fatal to foreigners. If the natives are bitten by this vile insect, they say the only cure is, to wrap themselves up in the hide of a newly-killed ox. We kept lights burning all night in our apartment, for fear of them.

15*th*.—We are detained here to-day on account of the muleteers requiring time for the shoeing of their cattle. I went into the miserable bazaar of the town, to purchase a bridle, and was astonished at the cheapness, and the neat manner in which the Persian saddlery is executed. On my return, I observed an ox lying in the street, which

had been but just killed, and the skin half taken off, and was in this manner exposed for sale. The butcher is, in general, surrounded by a quantity of half-starved dogs, waiting for their share of the carcase—the bones and offal.

Our principal muleteer disputed the authority of the *mehmandar*, which led to a quarrel, and blows were exchanged between them; they were, however, separated, the former swearing revenge as soon as he should find himself within his own province (the government of Casvin), declaring that they would not do him justice here.

16*th*.—We had some difficulty in getting off this morning, owing to the paltry excuses of our muleteers, who had by this time become almost unmanageable, and careless to either our remonstrances or those of the *mehmandar*. It snowed at starting, but soon cleared up, when we had a pleasant view of the surrounding country, which appeared very fertile, and most of it cultivated. At about one hour from Miana, we came to a broad but shallow river (the Garongoo), on which were great quantities of ducks and snipes. We crossed it over an old brick bridge, and soon afterwards entered a defile of mountains, and began ascending the pass of Kofflankoo*; the road, although steep and winding, was very good, and, when about the summit, we discovered an old *pavé*, which continued to the bottom of the mountains,

* These mountains are of very stupendous altitude, and are a branch of the sublime range which belongs to Koordistan.

on the eastern side. During our descent we observed an old fortress in ruins*, on the top of a rock, which commands the pass.

It struck me very forcibly how easy it would be for Russia, or any other civilized power, to march an army through the country we have been travelling in. Since we crossed the Araxis, I have met with nothing to obstruct the progress of artillery; the roads and country, as we advance, appear to be more accessible for an invading army than those which we have passed between Tiflis and Tabreez. If the Russians have succeeded, in so masterly a manner, in driving the Persians and Turks before them, and retaining the country wherever they choose, what obstacle is to impede them (in the course of time and events) from proceeding to the shores of the Persian gulf? This may be thought impossible, knowing the natural dislike those Eastern nations have for Christians, and more especially the antipathy they bear to Russia, and the little reliance to be placed in the faith of the Persians; and supposing Persia, as a united body (which, on account of the jealousy amongst the numerous royal princes, who are all more or less ambitious for the throne, is very doubtful), were to join with Turkey in a common cause against them; and together also with the uncertainty of procuring supplies for an army sufficiently powerful to oppose the enemy.

* Chardin conjectures it to have been a strong hold of Artaxerces.

But when one looks upon the progress of Russia in Armenia, where much more may be expected than is generally known, as regards provisions and the formation of an army, which might be probably with little trouble organised, at their own will and expense, when it is considered for the safety and foundation of their liberty, of which they have been so long deprived, and they now look forward with anxiety for the approach of the Russians, whom they consider as their deliverers. Then, again, the discontent of the Caucassians and Georgians may be urged: but the latter country is daily becoming more contented under its government; while the Caucasus are at this moment completely surrounded, and must, in the course of time, and shortly too, become entirely subject to the Czar. Then, again, has not Russia the command of all the navigation on the Caspian?—can she not, without the slightest interruption, transport an armament or supplies within three days' march of the present capital of Persia? Supposing her to have Armenia, what is to prevent her co-operating with that extensive country?—for, it is my opinion, there is not a Koordish chief or discontented Persian, who is not to be bought over, in case of invasion. As to whether a Russian army can put up with the privations and heat of Persia, it is highly ludicrous to suppose otherwise for a moment: I myself have suffered more from cold in the north of Persia than in any other country, and have felt the heat

as oppressive upon the steppes of Russia, in summer, as in Egypt, in the month of August.

Soon after clearing the mountains, we crossed the river Kizil Ouzan (supposed to be the Gozan of scripture), over a fine bridge, of three pointed arches: the scenery here is particularly interesting*. After journeying a short time on the left bank of the river we quitted it, crossed some bare hills covered with rock salt, and passed a ruined caravanserai; night was fast approaching when we arrived at the miserable little village of Sarcham (six *agach*), situated in a fertile valley, and close on the banks of the river Deezy, which joins the Kizil Ouzan, a short distance from this. Some of the peasantry cried out "Russ! Russ!" and we did not meet with the same friendly reception we had been accustomed to, until they were satisfied who we were. It is usual, when the inhabitants of a village are apprised of the approach of strangers, for the chief, with a part of the people, to go out and conduct them to some house, where they pass the night.

17*th*.—We commenced journeying this morning in a fine, fertile, and cultivated valley, watered by the river, which branches off into several streams here, and is covered with quantities of various kinds of water-fowl. It began to snow hard, and we halted for the night at the village of Nickbi. We were informed here that the health of the Russian ambassador at Tehran was in a very dangerous

* It was near this place that the unfortunate W. G. Brown, Esq. was murdered, in 1813.

state. The manner in which this was told, together with the circumstance of a courier having passed us on the day we left Tabreez, and who said there had been some disturbances in the capital, left a doubt in our minds as to whether the Persians had not committed some violence on the embassy.

18*th*.—The early part of this day's journey lay through an open, bleak country, with a chain of high mountains at a considerable distance on our right. We had left the river yesterday, but joined it again to-day, just before arriving at the town of Zingan; it snowed briskly as we entered the gates, and being covered with Russian *shoubs* and Circassian *bourkàs*, the inhabitants imagined we were Russians, and kept groaning and crying "O Russ! O Russ!" as we traversed the bazaars. We had not, however, been long here, when we received several trays of fruit and sweetmeats as a present from the prince (one of the royal family), who is governor here, with a request that the gentlemen would visit him before leaving the town. I remarked that the Persian begins to be in more common use here—the prevalent language heretofore has been Turkish; in fact, the Persians of the north know no other tongue.

Zingan is thickly populated, and appears to carry on a great trade with the surrounding country; the bazaars are well supplied, and rival Tabreez in the manufacture of copper articles, *numuds* (a kind of felt used for carpets), coarse cotton, &c.

19*th.*—The gentlemen paid their respects to his highness, and we afterwards proceeded, accompanied by an extra *mehmandar*, who had orders from the prince to conduct us as far as his government extended, and to see that every respect was paid us. This day's march was over a continuation of the same immense plain, with the mountains on each side of us, but at a great distance. The whole country was covered with snow; we could, however, trace the canals (under ground) for miles, by which the natives irrigate the land. Early in the afternoon we arrived at the palace of Sultania, one of the residences of the shah, during his summer excursions, and put up for the night at a village bearing the same name, about a mile beyond it. The inhabitants disputed one with another for the honour of entertaining us; they are well acquainted with the gentlemen of our embassy, especially those of the medical department, who are in the habit of frequently passing this way. English travellers in Persia always receive the honorary title of *Elshee Saab*, or *Hackum Saab*—that is, Mr. Ambassador, or Mr. Doctor.

20*th.*—The plain, together with the same uninteresting scenery, still continues. At the eighth *agach* we arrived at the pretty town of Koremdari, crossed the river, and, after travelling a short distance, entered the extensive village of Abhar, supposed to be the Habor mentioned in scripture, where part of the Israelites were captives:—"In

" the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria " took Samaria, and carried Israel away into " Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in " Habor, by the river of Gozan, and in the " cities of the Medes."—2 *Kings*, chap. xvii. v. 6.

Our doubts respecting the Russian embassy were here verified; for we learn, that some, or all of them, have fallen victims to the fury of a savage mob. We cannot ascertain the particulars, of which we must remain ignorant, probably until our arrival at the capital. Our extra *mehmandar* left us here, this being the extent of his master's territories.

21*st*.—We left this place early in the morning, and, after crossing some ploughed fields, entered the high road, or, more properly, a path, which continues from Sultania to Casvin; and journeyed for the remainder of the day over a hilly country, with high mountains in the distance*. I observed a great number of horses grazing on the slopes of the hills; they were all more or less clothed. About the seventh *agach* we arrived at Seideuan, a neat town, situated upon an elevation, and surrounded by a fertile plain, which extends for a considerable distance to a high chain of mountains in one way, and to Casvin in another.

22*nd*.—We remained here to-day (Sunday), and witnessed the funeral procession of an Imam (or

* The extensive chain of the Elborz (the loftiest of which is the majestic snow-crowned Demarvend); these mountains extend from Europe to the uttermost limits of Persia.

priest) of the town, preceded by men bearing banners and relics, which are only exposed on these occasions, and when pilgrimages to Mecca are about to be made. Nothing could be more ludicrous than the manner in which the people kept scrambling, fighting, and pushing each other about, contending for the honour of bearing the corpse, which, in the scuffle, had nearly fallen to the ground several times; the whole of them were bare headed, and kept beating their breasts and crying "Imam! Imam!" in a most discordant tone of voice.

23*rd*.—Left here this morning. The weather is milder, and the country appears more fertile and populated, as we advance. We continued on a good road across the plain for four *agach*, when we entered the gardens which surround the town of Casvin. We had yesterday forwarded our letters of introduction to a nobleman here, and his two sons, attended by some domestics (all well mounted), met us as we were entering the town, and conducted us to their father's house, where we remained the following day.

The Khan was from home; but his brother officiated for him, and did all in his power to entertain the gentlemen. We had brought a few bottles of arrack with us, and our host made very free with the forbidden drink during dinner; so much so, indeed, that he was full of vivacity, and became quite unruly before he could finish his pillaw. He was soon after taken away by his servants, com-

pletely intoxicated, who buffeted him about, pulled his beard, and kicked him, crying, he was a disgrace to Mahometans, and nothing better than a beast. It was really laughable to see the old man, with his long black beard, rolling about amongst his enraged domestics, and crying, in reply to their abuses, "*Al-hamool-illah!* (praise be to God!) I am not a *beast*, but a good Mussulman!"

Casvin is superior to Zingan, and is (for Persia) a very handsome town. The prince, who is governor here, is of the royal family, and lives in great pomp.

I went through the principal bazaars, which are well supplied with every article of Persian manufacture; the saddlery and horse-trappings are in particular of great beauty and most excellent workmanship.

I never remember seeing a finer collection of horses than what is met with here; they are all of the Khorasan breed, and cost from twenty to thirty pounds sterling each. In England, they would probably be valued at two hundred guineas.

25*th*.—On account of the melancholy fate of the Russian embassy, we took the precaution of sending forward our letters to the prime minister. We left this morning, accompanied by an extra *mehmandar*, who had orders to remain with us until we were safely arrived at the palace of the British embassy at Tehran. The weather continues mild. Our route was over a level country,

well inhabited, and for the greater part cultivated; and being anxious to arrive early to-morrow at our destination, we proceeded beyond the regular day's march (the village of Suffer Kajar). It became quite dark, when we found we had missed our road, and wandered about until one o'clock, when we came to a village, and reposed for a few hours, having previously refreshed on cakes and milk. We had travelled thirteen *agach*.

26*th*.—At seven o'clock we resumed our journey, and after passing a very pretty village and crossing some ploughed fields, where I remarked immense flocks of tame pigeons, we arrived at Salamoni (one *agach*). We halted here, and breakfasted in one of the apartments of the shah's palace, which is most splendidly decorated, and displays much variety of taste. The building is noble and extensive, and is surrounded by a high wall, enclosing two fine gardens.

Salamoni is very desirably situated, and has the luxury of a fine stream running through the centre of the village, which must be of infinite service to the inhabitants during the scorching heat of summer. It is a favourite retreat of the present shah.

About noon we proceeded, and soon after leaving the palace crossed a considerable river, over a very fine bridge. We passed a large drove of camels and dromedaries on the road, the drivers of which endeavoured to stop us; one of them had a sheep

in his arms, which he offered to us as a present; we refused it, and the fellows, considering this an affront, began to stone us. We quickened our pace, and fortunately got away without receiving any injury.

After journeying up a very pretty and picturesque valley for one *agach*, we entered an immense barren plain, covered with loose stones, which continued the whole way to Tehran (four *agach*). About an hour before arriving we met a courier, who was the bearer of a letter, written in French, from the prime minister, saying every respect should be paid us, and that a troop of cavalry should be in waiting to escort us to the British palace. We proceeded, and, arriving sooner than was expected, avoided this unnecessary parade.

We were met at the gates of the magnificent palace of our embassy by the steward (a Persian), and were conducted by him into the interior, which is furnished quite in the English style. On entering the stables with our horses, I remarked a quantity of blood upon the stones, and the remnants of torn clothes strewed about in all directions. I was shocked, when told that six unfortunate grooms and an interpreter had flown here for protection, and were murdered at the time of the late massacre.

CHAPTER VI.

Audience of the Shah—Account of the massacre of the Russian Embassy—Public Buildings—Population—Avarice of the Shah—Presents—Miserable condition of Persia—Influence of our Embassy—Variable Climate—Leave Tehran—Bare Country—Salt River—Irrigation—Face of the Country improves—Game—View of Mount Demarvend—Deep Snow—Fish—Superstition—King's Son—Village—Encounter with Inhabitants—Floods—Custom of washing the Dead—Hamudan—Mount Elwand—Jews—Visit to a Nobleman—Nowroose—Splendid Views—Koords—Cultivation—Temple of Diana—Country inundated—Iliots—Water Tortoises—Dangerous situation from having purchased a Lamb—Floods—Besitoon—Caravanserai—Cats—Tackt-i-Bostan—Kirmanshah—Visitors—Sepulchre of Saint Elias—Storks—Peasantry—Dangerous situation amongst Koords—Women—Their Employment—Georgian female Prisoner—Narrow Escape—Koordish Marauders—Dangerous Passes—Senna—Wallee—Presents from the Shah—Koordish Horsemanship—Russian Deserters—Ceme-

teries—Annual Mourning—Dogs—Singular Promenade—Dervise—Dancing Girls—Artack—Caves at Kerefto—Sham Fight—Sheep—Government of Abbas Mirza—Ouroomia—Fire Worshippers—Plain of Tabreez.

A FEW days after our arrival the gentlemen were granted an audience of the Shah, when he alluded to the late unfortunate massacre of the Russian embassy, and intimated, that it would not be advisable to proceed to Ispahan and Persepolis, as he feared the peasantry might be exasperated against all Europeans, as well as Russians, in consequence of the late affair, the circumstances of which, as far as I was able to ascertain, are as follows:—In December, 1828, Mr. Gribäedoff, the Emperor's ambassador, went to Tehran, to reclaim, according to the treaty of peace in the preceding year, all the Russian subjects; he was the bearer of very valuable presents from the emperor to the shah, who received them very graciously, and gave suitable ones in return. The embassy had been here about six weeks, when a Georgian, in the employ of the shah, and who had robbed his master of jewels to a considerable amount, claimed protection of the embassy, as a subject of Russia; and although it was represented to the ambassador that this man was so unworthy of protection, he was, nevertheless, received into the Russian palace. On entering the shah's service

he had become a Mussulman, but now again *professed* Christianity, and joined in ridiculing the Mahometan religion. The next circumstance that raised the indignation of the people was, that of the ambassador's sending to two Persian noblemen, requesting them to allow their wives (Georgian women) to come to his residence, that he might give them an opportunity of returning to their own country; this was, after some hesitation, complied with, and the ladies were sent to the palace, where they remained all night. Early the following morning a crowd collected round the house, and demanded the release of the women; they abused the Cossacks and domestics of the ambassador, who, being exasperated, fired on the mob, by which several of the Persians were killed. The bodies of the Mussulmen were immediately carried away to the mosques, where the moollahs incited the people to revenge the blood of the faithful, and the indignities heaped on them and their religion by infidel dogs (for the ambassador, in his audiences with the shah, had conducted himself with great impropriety and rudeness towards his majesty): the shops and bazaars were closed, and the whole population of Tehran were immediately in arms, and proceeded *en masse* to the palace of the embassy. On entering the court-yard, they observed the Georgian formerly in the service of the shah, whom they immediately killed. On this first signal of an attack, the ambassador, who was at break-

fast with some of the officers of his suite, fired on them. In an instant the dreadful affray began: the mob, unroofing the house, entered an apartment in which were the Georgian women, whom they carried away:—they then proceeded to the room in which the embassy were collected. Every individual fought most desperately; but in such an unequal conflict, they were soon cut to pieces, and the fountains and court-yards strewed with their mutilated corpses. Out of forty-eight persons, only three escaped, one of whom was the secretary; he was concealed by the *mehmandar* to the embassy (a Persian), until an escort could be procured to conduct him to the palace, where he has remained ever since. The body of the ambassador was afterwards dragged through the streets and bazaars. Thus perished a whole embassy, probably from the non-observance of a caution and line of conduct highly necessary in all intercourses with a people in a state of uncivilization!

The minds of the people were now at the highest pitch of excitement, and they loudly called for a war with Russia. This was what the shah most dreaded, and he immediately dispatched a courier to our ambassador at Tabreez, informing him of the melancholy occurrence. We had not been above three days at Tehran when young Mr. Macdonald arrived, and was immediately ushered into the presence of the shah: having ascertained the par-

ticulars of the affair, he returned with an escort to Tabreez, taking with him the secretary, who had survived the massacre. The king, as on former occasions, threw himself entirely on the protection of our envoy, who was unremitting in his exertions to maintain peace between the two nations. By his advice, the court was put into mourning; the body of M. Gribäedoff sent, with signs of the deepest regret, to Russia; and Abbas Mirza deputed to explain the affair, in person, to the emperor. This was, however, afterwards done by Koosroo Mirza, his son, who happily succeeded in his mission, and terminated this most unfortunate occurrence without further bloodshed.

Tehran* became the capital of Persia in 1788; it is situated at the foot of the Elborz mountains, on the other side of which is the Caspian Sea; and differs but little in appearance from the generality of Persian towns. The public buildings excel those of Tabreez in magnitude and architecture; yet there is so much sameness in the construction of them, that it would be folly to describe this city after Tabreez, even had it not already been done so frequently by more able writers. Amongst the population, which is very

* Tehran was (according to Persian tradition) a flourishing village, and celebrated for its productive gardens, so far back as the fourteenth century; and is mentioned as being in the vicinity of the city of Rhe, the ruins of which are five miles off.

great, are a few Armenians, who trade between this, Ispahan, and Shiraz*.

The present shah is rather unpopular, and is considered a very weak monarch; his whole care appears to be in accumulating riches, never regarding how he oppresses his subjects, so that he augments his revenue, which is derived chiefly by yearly payments (or what they call presents) made by every nobleman, at the time of the *nowroose* (feast of the waters).

Persia is at this time in a miserable condition, and it would require but little intrigue to establish a revolutionary spirit throughout the whole empire. The king, the ministry, and, in fact, Persia in general, are alike devoid of principle, and are daily diminishing in importance.

Napoleon's mission to the Persian court, in 1805 (which was but five years after that sent by the East India Company), proved a failure, since which time France has had no minister here. Upon what footing we are now with this country may be easily imagined, when they fly for advice to our embassy upon every important affair: they are much indebted for the friendly interference of our

* This city is about five hundred miles distant from the present capital. Dispatches have been forwarded by *chappers* from one city to the other within five days and a half; and, upon extraordinary occasions, nine days only has been employed between Tehran and Bushire (on the gulf of Persia), distant about seven hundred miles.

ambassador with the court of Russia, in explanation of the causes which gave rise to the late massacre.

From the situation of Tehran the climate is variable; at present the season is remarkably fine, and the crops appear to be as forward as in the month of June, in England. The markets are well supplied with vegetables from the gardens which surround the town.

March 9th.—Having concluded a contract with some muleteers who are to accompany us to Tabreez, and our firman and *mehmandar* being ready, we bade adieu to the capital of Persia: had we not chanced to arrive at so critical a moment, we might have enjoyed more of the curiosities and novelties of the city, which are so different to any thing we have ever met with: we passed through the Ispahan gate, and commenced the plain. Having left rather late in the day, we were only able to make the village of Batchabad (four *agach*), where we remained for the night.

10th.—The early part of our route to-day lay over the same plain as yesterday, varying little in its general appearance, excepting that it was more cultivated; after clearing it, we travelled over a bare open wild country, covered with salt for some miles. The water of a river we forded was also so salt that our thirsty horses could not drink it. We arrived in good time at the village of Peek (having made eight *agach*). The situation of this place is very desirable, being in the midst of a

fertile country, watered by several streams; the peasantry appear rich in cattle and corn, and are remarkable for their loyalty. We regretted leaving, having received more kindness here than we have as yet met with in any part of Persia.

11*th*.—Left this morning, and journeyed through a continuation of open country, well inhabited and cultivated: irrigation is carried on here in a more extensive manner than we have hitherto met with, and I also notice more trees about the villages. The country abounds in game of various sorts, amongst which is a species of bird (cupks), not unlike the grouse, but of the colour of a partridge. At the sixth *agach* we entered an immense plain, which we skirted for about two *agach*, when we arrived at the miserable village of Kurguk, a few houses erected for the accommodation of caravans; here we remained till morning.

12*th*.—From this we crossed a chain of very bleak mountains, covered with snow; from the top of the pass we had a fine, but distant view, of mount Demarvend. We descended through a valley in deep snow: having cleared the mountains, we crossed an open bare country, little inhabited, to the town of Naravat (nine *agach* from Kurguk); the environs of this place are fertile, and laid out to great advantage, considering the ignorance of the inhabitants in the art of husbandry. The town is placed upon a rise, with a small river running beneath it, which abounds in excellent fish, but

superstition prevents the people from taking it, as there is a story in circulation (no doubt the imposition of one of their sooth-sayers), that, once upon a time, a person caught so great a quantity as to be obliged to throw away one half. At this wanton waste the (golden) king of the fishes took offence, and ever since, should any one attempt to fish there, he comes and drives all his subjects away.

13*th*.—Resumed our journey early this morning. The weather continues cold, and the country is partly covered with snow; the roads are particularly heavy. After crossing a river and ascending a mountain, we met the Shah's *adda* (son of the king), prince of Hamudan, surrounded by about three hundred horsemen; he rode in a sort of palanquin, covered with red cloth, suspended between mules, and was attended by the governor, who halted to speak to us, and ordered a firman to be written out on the spot, desiring every protection from the natives of their government, and also provided us with a guide, who will overtake us to-morrow. We thanked him, and continued.

At the close of the day we arrived at a village surrounded by a wall; we left our horses and baggage outside, and had been here but a short time, when, through the unnecessary violence of our *mehmandar*, who struck some of the inhabitants, a scuffle took place, and the whole village was up in arms. The gentlemen immediately ran outside, leaving me to get away in the best manner

I could. I, however, had *all our pistols* in my care, and, holding one in each hand, succeeded in making good my retreat, not however without receiving a blow in the back from a tremendous stone. We mounted our horses, and left without further injury. In about one hour we arrived at another village, where we were told that there was no room for us; we were obliged to proceed still further to Karati, where we were fortunate enough to get housed, having performed about nine *agach* since the morning.

14*th.*—Our journey to-day lay across a flat country, which was in many parts completely inundated by the late rains. At the fifth *agach* we came to the little village of Ionti, a short distance beyond which our *mehmandar* attempted to ford a river, but was unable to do so, and had much difficulty in getting out again; seeing no chance of crossing, we determined on returning, to put up for the night at the village we had just passed, where we were comfortably lodged for the night.

15*th.*—The rains have continued, and there is no chance of getting away to-day. The interpreter and myself became very friendly with our host, and in the course of conversation entered on the topic of religion; had we remained a week longer, I have no doubt he would have become a christian.

16*th.*—The floods are somewhat abated, and we resume our journey to-day, but by a circuitous

route. On passing a village, I noticed the natives washing the body of a child in a ditch, by the road side, previous to interring it. After travelling about six *agach*, we came to the river Hamudan; and journeying on its banks for some distance we crossed it, over a long brick-built bridge, and proceeding over a very heavy country, where our cattle frequently stuck fast in the mud for two *agach*, we came to an open plain, on the verge of which we continued till within a short distance of Hamudan, when we forded a river, and soon after entered the town. We lodged till morning in a miserable hovel, and then removed to the house of an Armenian, who is in the habit of entertaining the gentlemen of our embassy when they visit this place.

Hamudan (the ancient Ectabana and summer residence of King Ahasuerus and Esther), is desirably situated at the extremity of an immense plain, and immediately in the neighbourhood of a chain of mountains, the most lofty of which is Mount Elwand* (the Orontis of the ancients), and celebrated at the present day as having two tablets of the arrow-headed letter cut in the rock, at its base. The environs of the town are one complete garden, producing, in the season, every luxury custo-

* "The view from the top of this mountain is splendid beyond description; since it presents rock, mountain, and desert—a brazen soil with a sky of fire."—Sir R. K. Porter.

mary to the country; the numerous springs from the mountains irrigate the land with much less labour than is generally necessary throughout Persia. On the banks of the river, which runs through the town, I observed several tan yards; this place being celebrated for the excellent manner in which they dress and dye skins, and also for the manufacture of various articles of iron, beautiful painted *numuds* of felt, carpets, &c.

I went through the bazaars, which appear to be well supplied with the produce of the country. Several dervises were amusing the inhabitants by their dancing and ridiculous tricks, which were more extravagant and numerous than usual, owing to the fast approach of the *nowroose*. Hamudan is well populated, with a small proportion of Armenians, and many Jews; the latter pay a tax of ten tomains (£.5 15*s*.) each, per year, for the privilege of living under the protection of the government, and are obliged to wear a patch of red cloth on their garments, to distinguish them from the other inhabitants; they are mostly artisans, are very industrious, and appear to be satisfied with their situation. We visited the tombs of Esther and Mordecai (two wooden arks, about seven feet high), which are in a small brick-built sanctuary, situated in an open space in the town. The splendour of this city, once the capital of Media, had been gradually declining for many years, when it received its final blow under Timour

the Tartar, who sacked and pillaged the town, and, amongst other devastations, razed to the ground the sanctuary, containing the remains of Esther and Mordecai.

20*th*.—This morning we went to visit a nobleman in the neighbourhood; his palace is walled in, and surrounded with plantations of trees, which was quite a novelty to us. The gentlemen having been introduced to him and his two brothers, they were handed chairs, kept for the accommodation of Europeans; after a long conversation, rose water was handed round in profusion, and we all bathed our hands and faces with it. We then entered another apartment, and partook of a déjeûné, consisting of upwards of a hundred messes, some of which were horribly sickening. The khan appeared to enjoy the company of his *cardages* (brothers), as he called us. After finishing breakfast, and smoking the caleoon, he ordered his stud to be brought out for us to look at; we then mounted our horses, and after riding about for a short time bade him adieu, and returned to Hamudan. The *nowroose* commenced at five p. m., and was ushered in with great rejoicings—firing guns, pistols, &c., general illuminations, bonfires on the tops of the houses, fireworks, &c.; nothing could have a more gay and lively appearance than the town presented at night.

21*st*.—Left Hamudan this morning, in the direction of Bagdad. We skirted a plain for three

agach, at the end of which we entered a defile of hills; after traversing a pretty valley, watered by a small stream, we ascended a steep rocky mountain (part of the chain of Elwand), from the summit of which we had a splendid view of the whole country around, and the town to which we were journeying immediately beneath us. It became dark before we could arrive at Sahadabad, where we lodged in a sort of caravanserai, and remained the following day (Sunday). We were told here of the danger we must expect to meet with amongst the Koords, whose country we were about to enter. A poor fellow (a peasant) arrived during the day; he had come a cross-country road, and was met by a party of these savage mountaineers, who robbed him of three asses, a mule, and every other article he possessed; he had attempted resistance, it appears, and received a cut from a sabre, on the temple.

23*rd*.—Traversed the pretty plain of which we had so fine a view from the mountains yesterday. At three *agach* we crossed some low hills, and entered another well cultivated and extensive plain. The crops were looking very green, and every thing appeared as forward as in the month of May in England. One *agach* on the verge of this delightful plain brought us to the town of Kangavar; here we were very warmly welcomed by a khan; he professed great friendship for the English, and spoke highly of the gentlemen who

were entrusted with our first mission to Persia, and showed us several articles of English manufacture, which had been presented to him by them. In the evening we went to see the celebrated ruins of the temple of Diana, which are situated upon an elevated spot, about the centre of the town; part of the wall is still perfect, and is about twenty feet high. The form of the building is quadrangular, presenting a front of three hundred yards each way. Nine columns of the Doric order are still standing, though very imperfect. Some of the fragments of columns which I noticed were of a blueish hard kind of marble, marked with veins of the most delicate white.

24*th*.—After receiving a visit from the khan this morning, and making him a present of a canister of fine gunpowder (of which he seemed very proud), we bade him farewell. The rains were extremely heavy during the night, and the whole country through which we travelled was nearly inundated by them. In a narrow valley, amongst the mountains, about one hour from the town, we passed a camp of Iliots. The manner in which they pitch their tents is not unlike the construction of a street; some of the men were employed herding their cattle, whilst the women appeared strolling about the valley, gathering herbs. We also met a party of these wandering tribes on horseback; they were well mounted and armed, and no doubt, if an opportunity had offered, they would have

passed the compliment of the day upon us in another manner than what they did; our party was pretty strong, and *on guard* for any sudden attack they might contemplate on us. At the third hour we crossed a chain of picturesque mountains, by a beautiful pass, and descended into a very extensive and luxuriant valley, about the centre of which we passed a considerable village (Sannah), and caught the first sight of the rock of Besitoon. In one hour from this we joined the banks of a small river; the country everywhere appearing well cultivated, with some delightful green hills on our right, the river continuing on our left. Here I observed an unusual quantity of black water tortoises; they were so thick in some places in the vicinity of the river, as to completely cover the bank; and on our near approach all jumped into the water. The land tortoise is of great service to the inhabitants of some parts of this country; they are made into soup, and administered as a medicine in cases of consumption. The many flocks of sheep to be met with in every part of this country is really astonishing. The general use of meat is certainly greater amongst the Koords than the Persians.

We were thrown into imminent danger this afternoon, by the simple circumstance of purchasing a lamb from a shepherd, on the road; the gentlemen and the baggage were considerably a-head of our interpreter and myself, who had remained to

make the purchase: when we received the lamb we galloped on to overtake them; and being observed by some peasants, who were at work in the fields, they cried out, commanding us to stop, but we did not understand them, as they spoke the Koordish tongue. It appears that they thought we had stolen the lamb, and gave the alarm to the inhabitants of a village close by, who all turned out, armed with immense bludgeons, pointed with iron, and surrounded us just as we came up with our party; they carried the interpreter away with them to the village, leaving a few of their number to guard us; we remained in a state of great anxiety until his return (about an hour and a half), when, fortunately for us, the shepherd admitted the sale, and we were allowed to proceed.

We commenced crossing a flat country; and, as night was fast approaching, we were anxious to get to some house before it became dark, knowing the savage disposition of the people we were travelling amongst. We made for a village across some corn-fields, but the ill-natured wretches shut the gates, and would not allow us to enter; it now became quite dark, and we scarcely knew what to do, as the surrounding country was one immense lake, from the heavy rains, which had caused the river to overflow. We, however, succeeded in procuring a guide to conduct us to Besitoon, which was about one hour further on.

We had much difficulty in finding our way in the dark, and fording numerous ditches; where some of our party got into deep water, and had to swim out. A river we had to cross (over a fine brick bridge) was so much swollen, that our horses were nearly carried away by the current before they could reach the battlements: it was near midnight when we arrived at the caravanserai at Besitoon, which was much thronged with travellers. A Persian nobleman, accompanied by his wives, servants, and guards, in all amounting to upwards of fifty persons, were lodging here. We had prepared our lamb for dressing when we arrived, but afterwards found no means of cooking it; it was in my charge during the night, and, being somewhat tired, I threw myself down on some sacks, having first placed the lamb near me, and fell asleep. Long before morning, however, I was roused by the fighting of some cats close at my head; I dispersed them, discovering, at the same time, that they had partaken freely of what we looked forward to as a good meal in the morning. I fell asleep again, and when day-light appeared, found nothing but the skeleton of our poor lamb.

25th.—Having breakfasted off sour milk and barley cakes, we visited the rocks, on which are sculptured the figures said to represent the ten tribes of Israel when captives. On our return to the caravanserai, we mounted our horses, and proceeded for Kermanshah, over a level road, skirting a chain of rocky mountains on our right; we

went considerably off the direct road, to visit the grotto and fountain of Tackt-i-Bostan, where are some fine specimens of ancient sculpture. Immediately under the chamber cut in the rock issues, from the mountain, a fine clear stream, which irrigates for miles a fertile open country. From this we were but one hour and a half from Kirmanshah by the common route; but, on account of the waters being out, we did not arrive in less than three hours, having been obliged to re-enter the direct road from Besitoon.

On entering the town we saw the shah's *addla*, accompanied by a numerous and splendid cavalcade of noblemen, guards, and domestics, taking an airing in the fields.

Kirmanshah is the capital of a province of which the prince is governor; he is (like most of the royal family) a handsome young man, and has a remarkably fine black beard. After traversing several irregular bazaars and narrow dirty streets, we arrived at the governor's (of the *town*) house, where we lodged. We remained here two days, in hopes of getting an interview with the prince, as it was necessary we should be provided with a *mehmandar* and guard from this to Senna, the capital of Koordistan, which we intend to visit on our return to Tabreez. The house we inhabit is full of visitors; amongst others, a pacha from Bagdad*,

* The pacha of Bagdad pays an annual tribute to the prince of Kirmanshah.

with a numerous retinue of guards and domestics, in all upwards of fifty. What with visitors and the governor's own suite, he probably feeds two hundred and fifty persons daily, and I have counted upwards of two hundred dishes served up to the pacha's table alone. I was told twelve or fourteen sheep were killed every day.

Kirmanshah is placed on an elevation; on one side surrounded by a range of hills, and on the other is a fertile valley, extending to the town of Senna, the capital and the most southern district of Koordistan, and in the opposite direction to the junction of the rivers Mori and Kara-sou. The town itself is old and ruinous; the streets are continually thronged with peasantry and merchants, this being a great thoroughfare from Bagdad to the north of Persia; trade is, in consequence, very brisk. It is about two hundred and forty miles from Babylon, and nearly the same distance from Mousal (Nineveh). Many English travellers, from India, take this in their way home.

28*th*.—Having been detained here much longer than we intended, we determined on leaving without a guide, rather than remain without any prospect of seeing the prince. When the governor found we were going, he applied to his highness, and one of the gentlemen had an audience. We left during the afternoon for Tackt-i-Bostan, with the promise that a *mehmandar* would meet us in the morning; we returned the

same way we had come, and were comfortably lodged in the village.

29*th.*—Were off early this morning, and were overtaken by our new *mehmandar*, with four guards, soon after clearing the village. At one *agach* we entered a defile of mountains, after clearing which we arrived at a beautiful and extensive plain, well peopled and cultivated. At the third *agach* we passed a mountain, rising from the centre of the plain, which is said to contain the sepulchre of St. Elias: we continued our route along the verge of this plain, at the foot of a chain of lofty and rocky mountains; nothing could be more delightful than the general fertility we met with here, assisted by numerous mountain springs, which irrigate the whole country. During the day we passed several villages, and I observed numbers of the common storks, which had built their nests on the roofs of the houses*. The peasantry appear more savage and uncivilized as we proceed: towards the close of the day we arrived at a village surrounded by high walls. We had travelled six *agach* and a half since the morning.

30*th.*—On leaving this morning, the inhabitants followed us to the outside of the walls, and ap-

* Since travelling in the East, I have invariably noticed these noble birds to be more numerous than in any other country I have visited. I may make the same remark on the dove.

peared dissatisfied; and had not the chief interposed, and told them we had paid *him* for the provisions they had provided us with, we should no doubt have been roughly treated, until we had satisfied their demands. One *agach* from this took us beyond the dominions of the shah's *adda*, and into those of the Wallee of Koordistan.

We entered another plain, and joined a river; and after crossing and recrossing it several times, at the end of three *agach* we passed a village; the appearance of the peasantry was any thing but inviting. From this we entered a narrow valley, through which runs a mountain stream, which serves to work several small mills.

We kept ascending some mountains, covered with verdure, and at the fifth *agach* began to descend; in about one hour we arrived at the junction of three valleys, and made for a small village (Zellikalla), where our guides intended that we should put up for the night; but the male part of the population being at work in the mountains, the women appeared alarmed at the prospect of being left alone with us. It was yet early in the afternoon, and we preferred proceeding rather than run the risk of bringing down the vengeance of the men upon us, on their return at night. We continued for some distance, but finding that we were not likely soon to meet with any habitation in our way, we were induced to make for a village situated at the top of a narrow valley, high in the moun-

tains, some distance out of the common route. We met with nothing but women, old men, and boys here; they did not, however, disapprove of our remaining with them, although we were doubtful whether we were not placed in a critical situation (for our guides told us they were nothing but freebooters). On account of the fast approach of night, it was, in our opinion, preferable to remain, rather than risk passing it in this wild country. We told the natives we were English travellers, on our way to Senna, with presents from our king to the wallee: this had the desired effect (for they stand in great awe of their chief), and we were fortunate enough to remain unmolested by the numerous ferocious-looking people, who flocked from all directions at the close of the day.

The women have their faces uncovered, and are rather handsome; they dress their hair in the same manner as the Tartar females, and were occupied in making a sort of fine matting, weaving small carpets, coarse cloth, and hair webs. The walls of the hut we lodged in was decorated with different implements of war; amongst them I noticed a lance, which measured upwards of eighteen feet.

A Georgian woman, who had been stolen from a caravan, made herself known to our interpreter, and begged that we would assist her in making her escape. We were not ourselves particularly safe here, and could only deplore the fate of this unfortunate female.

31*st*.—Procured a guide, and were allowed to proceed; on turning round, at a short distance from the village, I observed the Georgian woman following us with a pitcher in her hand, as if going for water. Some men whom we met no doubt intercepted her, and prevented her from escaping.

On crossing a narrow but deep and rapid mountain-torrent, over a wicker bridge, my horse, which was young and not very tractable, was leaning too much to one side, when I checked him rather suddenly, and we both fell headlong into the river, and were instantly carried under the bridge. The horse swam out on one side, whilst I was fortunate in grasping hold of the bough of a tree on the other, and thus succeeded in landing; being armed with pistols, sword, and carabine, and also wearing a heavy fur jacket, it would have been impossible for me to swim; and had not this tree been providentially placed in the way, I should most inevitably have perished.

At about one *agach* from the village we joined another river (the Kara-sou), and kept in the vicinity of its waters the remainder of the day, crossing and recrossing it at intervals; our road led us through the most singular and inaccessible country I ever was in. When about the third *agach*, we observed one of our late friends from the village following us, armed with sword, lance, pistols, dagger, and shield, and also an immense bludgeon, with a nob of iron at the end,

hanging at his saddle bow; he was presently followed by some others, mounted and armed in the same manner. We became alarmed for our safety, thinking the guide had betrayed us. They approached nearer, and one of them advanced towards us, seemingly much enraged, and spit in the face of our guide, asking why he had taken us this way, and desired us to recross the river, and keep on its left bank; they then left us, and we resumed our journey, much satisfied with their departure. During the afternoon we passed an encampment of a wandering tribe; one of our party went to it, and returned with some cheese and an armfull of new-baked cakes.

Some of the passes we crossed were so very narrow, and the precipices beneath so frightful, that we were obliged to dismount, and lead our horses; and in other places the passages between the rocks were so confined, that the mules had some difficulty in forcing their way through them with the baggage:—the scenery was picturesque and beautiful beyond description. Towards the end of our day's journey we cleared the mountains,—entered an open country, and forded the river, which, having become swollen by the late rains, was rendered very dangerous. About sunset we arrived at the singularly-situated town of Senna, the capital of Koordistan (having come eleven *agach* since the morning). We were conducted to the palace of a nobleman, where we received every

attention and hospitality. The wallee is independent of Persia, but nevertheless pays a tribute to the shah, who is acknowledged annually by the present of a splendid dress. This present (together with thirty camels, each carrying a piece of light artillery) came whilst we were here; and the wallee, accompanied by his guards, and hundreds of horsemen, went out to meet it. There is a camp prepared for his reception, where he changes his dress for that sent by the shah, and afterwards returns in great pomp to the city, preceded by numerous horsemen, who display great agility in their exercise and the management of their horses, firing off and reloading pistols and muskets, in rapid succession, whilst at full gallop, charging with lances, shields, &c., with astonishing activity; nothing indeed can possibly surpass the Koordish horsemanship; and never do I remember seeing so many valuable and handsomely caparisoned animals at one time*.

The town is in rather a ruinous state, and has nothing worthy of remark; the bazaars and streets are inferior to those of other places where we have been; they are very clever in the manufacture of lances, javelins (which are made of steel), and chain

* The food of the horses here differs from that in general use throughout Persia: a weed is very abundant in the mountains, which answers all the purposes of chopped straw and barley, the almost universal provender in the East for these useful animals.

armour. I observed some dervises in the streets, performing their slight-of-hand tricks, to the great surprise and satisfaction of the inhabitants.

The gentlemen had an audience of the wallee, and were offered presents, which they declined receiving, saying they had nothing valuable enough to give in return. Several Russian deserters are in the service of this chief, and instruct the natives in the European musket exercise; some of these renegades are now in prison, having conspired and robbed the treasury. The guards about the palace are dressed in the same manner as the infantry at Tabreez, and carry a pouch, belt, and musket; no doubt part of those given by the East India Company to Persia. Senna is surrounded on all sides by high hills, in the neighbourhood of which two of the principal rivers in Persia (the Kizzil-ousan and Kara-sou) take their source, and, flowing in opposite directions, empty their waters into the Caspian and Persian Gulf. The Kara-sou, after winding through an almost inaccessible country, and receiving in its course numerous tributary streams, flows close to the ruins of Susa, and joins the Shat-el-Arab, about fifty miles below the junction of the Tigris and the Euphrates. Many Nestorian Christians reside here; for thirteen centuries they are said to have enjoyed their church unmolested.

April 3rd.—Having procured a *mehmandar* and four guards, we left this morning for Tabreez.

Soon after leaving the town we passed the cemetery, which was literally covered with people, who were sitting on the graves. On inquiring what was the meaning of this, I was told, that once a year (at the time of the *nowroose*) the faithful devote a certain day, the whole of which is spent in the cemetery, where they eat butter and honey, and mourn over the tombs of their departed relatives.

Our route lay over an open, hilly country, with nothing interesting to be seen, save the numerous flocks of sheep, and the industry of the peasantry, who were busy ploughing, and sowing their corn; during the day we passed two very large and well-populated villages. At the sixth *agach* we came to the village of Backala, where we halted for the night; the people were so anxious to see us, that they flocked from all directions, and covered the tops of the huts about us, staring with all the astonishment of savages.

The dogs in this country are mostly black, and more savage than those of other parts. The natives are so accustomed to dwell on the tops of their houses, that they are even fond of promenading on them in winter; the dogs partake of the same pleasure, and are seen sleeping about on the roofs, like so many pieces of ordnance on the ramparts of a fortress. We were pestered by a dervise, who declared we should not be able to proceed, if we did not make him a present of a gold coin. In spite of the cholic, stomach-ache,

and the loss of one of the hind legs of a favourite horse, with which he threatened to visit us in case of refusal, he remained unsatisfied.

4th.—Resumed our journey this morning. The weather particularly fine, and the peasantry appear busy in the fields; the scenery is, if anything, less interesting than that of yesterday. During the morning, we passed several villages, and, when about the fifth *agach*, came to the river Kizzilousan, where we had to unpack our baggage, and partly undress ourselves to ford. One *agach* beyond this, up a narrow and green valley, brought us to the considerable village of Dewanderrah. Here we were shown the dancing girls, so much famed amongst the Koords; their tricks were quite disgusting, and altogether unworthy of notice. The women in this country are unveiled, and mix freely in the society of the men.

5th.—Left this morning, and during the day made seven *agach*, in an open, hilly country, thinly populated. When about the fifth *agach*, we arrived at a village inhabited by another tribe of Koords, who wear blue turbans. I was told they are not subject to the wallee; they however behaved very well, and invited us to remain all night with them. We were anxious to proceed further, and continued our journey to the village of Artack; the whole of the habitations are excavated in the side of a rocky range of hills, with merely a wall raised up in front; they are so

extensive as to accommodate some hundreds of cattle at one time.

We were hospitably entertained in the cave of the chief, who, on our arrival, killed a lamb, off which we supped, together with goat's milk, honey, and cheese.

6*th*.—On leaving this, we expressed a desire to view some extraordinary caves in a mountain called Kerefto, said once to have been inhabited by a banditti, so formidable and desperate as to have set the whole country at defiance. Our host immediately ordered his horse, and accompanied us; after traversing a narrow valley, by the side of a stream, for nearly one *agach*, we crossed a high hill, immediately beyond which appeared the mountain. The caves are very extensive, and it is considered dangerous to explore them without the assistance of guides. I observed quantities of eagles and other birds in the vicinity.

On leaving this place*, we travelled through a succession of narrow valleys, covered with the richest verdure, where our host made us partake of a bowl of sour milk, with a *snow ball* in the middle of it, which cooled us effectually. At the third *agach* the old man bade us farewell, having first put us into a path leading over hill and dale

* A large snake crossed our path; it was perfectly yellow, and measured about four feet in length, and about eight inches round the thickest part. I dismounted from my horse, and succeeded in destroying it with my sabre.

to Kultapa. During our afternoon's ride we had extensive views of most beautiful mountain scenery. Our *mehmandar* desired the muleteers (who had preceded us) to inform the sultan (the chief's title) that we were English; and on entering we were met by some people, whom he had sent to conduct us to the palace, which is situated within a fortress, on a hill, in the centre of the village. We received every kindness here from the sultan, who appeared much amused with our arms, and asked me to show him our manner of using the sword, with which he appeared highly gratified.

7th.—We left this morning, accompanied by the chief, and an escort of guards and domestics, amounting in all to about fifty horsemen, with dogs and hawks. We were shown specimens of horsemanship, and a sham fight was got up; the men fought at first with swords and shields, and were so eager to display their courage, that, had they not been advised to change their weapons for sticks, the result might probably have been more serious than a fight of this description generally is.

After fording the river Jigatti, and crossing an open country, we came to a village, where we parted from our host, and procured a guide; we then continued our journey, descending continually, for three *agach*, through valleys of rich pasturage;—passed several villages, and noticed immense flocks of sheep feeding on the mountains. At the sixth *agach* we came to Sian Kala, and entered the

government of Abbas Mirza: it was yet early, and we continued travelling over a rich, level, and well-populated country. We put up at a large village (Mamajook) for the night, and experienced a great change for the better, as regards civilization.

8th.—We left early this morning, and enjoyed all the pleasures of spring, which is delightful in this country; we continued travelling in the same plain as yesterday, by the side of the river, and passed several well-populated villages, where more cultivation and luxury is met with. We journeyed for six *agach* over a sameness of level country, when we crossed some bare hills, and descended into the town of Maraga; we had a delightful and extensive view of the lake of Ouroomia, with the mountains beyond it on our left.

We were some time in traversing the immense gardens that surround the town, which is very extensive and well populated. We remained here for the night, and lodged in one of the government houses.

9th.—Left early this morning; at about one *agach* from the town we visited some excavations in a rock, high on the brow of the Rassal hills, where we saw the altars formerly used by the Ghebers (fire worshippers).

From this we travelled, at a short distance from the lake, for about three *agach*, when we left it, crossed some hills, and continued travelling the

remainder of the day through the most sublime scenery; many of the higher mountains appeared of various colours, and their summits were covered with snow; luxuriant valleys, and extensive views of the surrounding country, were continually bursting upon us as we advanced. Soon after sunset we arrived at the little town of Deygurgan (eight *agach*); the descent from the mountains into this luxuriant country reminded me of that from the Simplon to Domo d'Ossola. Here I remarked that the season was much more advanced than in the countries we had travelled through since leaving Kirmanshah:—we remained here all night.

10*th*.—Were off early this morning, being anxious to arrive in good time at Tabreez. Our route lay across a barren, sandy plain, for the first three *agach*; nothing interesting appeared until we entered the plain of Tabreez, where fertility and cultivation are abundant. We pushed forward, and in about two hours arrived at the doors of the residence we had left two months previously.

CHAPTER VII.

Departure—Lake of Ouroomia—Armenian Encampment—Khoye—Khan—Earthquake—Romantic Scenery—Benighted—Turkish Koords—Mistaken for Russians—Mehmandar severely treated in consequence—A convincing Argument—Ruined Village—Lost—Disappointment—Snow Storm—Obliged to pass the Night on the Mountains—Sheep's Milk—Koshab—Hospitality—Irregular Cavalry—Van—Detained Prisoners—Obliged to deliver up our Arms—Audience of the Pacha—Christian Church—Arrow-headed Characters—Leave Van—Buffaloes—Lake—Turkish Oppression—Koordish Encampments—Pelicans—Wild Fowl—Ardish—Post-House—Dangerous Ferry—Cruelty of the Koords—Persian Caravan—Uncultivation—Russian advanced Posts—Turkish Bey—Curiosity of Soldiers—Armenian Villages—Euphrates—Anecdote—Koordish Tent—Armenian Church—The Araxis—Turkish Cavalry—Population of Armenia—Pilgrimages—Relic—Splendid Views—Immense Caravan—Hassan Kalla—Mineral Baths—Chapper Khan—Arxeroom—Italian Doctor—Turkish Mansion.

April 21*st*.—HAVING sent forward our own mules and horses, and procured a firman and *mehmandar* from his Royal Highness Abbas Mirza, and hired *chapper* horses, we bade adieu to, I may say, the most tranquil and best regulated city in Persia. We were accompanied, for a short distance on the road, by most of the gentlemen of the legation. After having travelled four hours across the plain of Tabreez, we got to Ali-shah; from thence six hours brought us to the neat little town of Kuzakan, and ere sunset we had a fine view of the lake of Ouroomia. We now travelled along the base of a range of high hills, the slopes of which are laid out to great advantage, irrigation being carried on here, as indeed in most parts of Persia, very successfully.

22*nd*.—In four hours, this morning, we arrived at the neat town of Tasse, within a mile of the lake; its environs form a complete garden—verdure is everywhere to be seen in this country; and a vast population is supported by its productions. After refreshing, we proceeded; a heavy rain and fog obscured the lake, with its islands, from our view; but during three hours' ride to Almanserai it cleared up, when we found ourselves close on the smooth waters of Ouroomia. The circumference of this lake is considered to be about two hundred and fifty miles; its length, from north to south, ninety; and breadth, thirty-two; the scenery was most beautiful. In the centre of this immense lake

several singular-formed islands* are dispersed, and the opposite mountains of Koordistan bound the prospect: the *tout ensemble* is highly romantic, and reminded us of the scenery of Switzerland: the waters of the lake, we were told, is so salt†, that no fish can live in it. Almanserai, where we lodged, is close under the range of mountains, which take a turn here, and terminate in the lake.

23*rd*.—Got away early, and commenced ascending a rocky steep pass in the mountains; the road proved rather indifferent and rugged; in two hours we arrived at the summit: we descended through a narrow glen, and in three quarters of an hour passed a village, and commenced crossing a wide open plain, which continues for two hours. When within three quarters of an hour of Khoye, we fell in with a caravan of Armenians, with their goods and cattle, emigrating to Erivan; we approached their camp, when they came out to meet us, perceiving we were Christians, by our dress. They complained of the bad treat-

* Amongst the numerous islands that rise from the bosom of these waters, none are inhabited save that of Sahay, which contains but a solitary village, in tolerable population; there is an abundance of wood in the island, as also a quantity of wild goats, antelopes, and numerous kinds of wild fowl.

† "I put my hand into the waters of the lake, and having drawn it out again, a very short evaporation left it encrusted with glittering saline particles, perfectly white."—Sir R. K. Porter.

ment they met with from the Mussulmen wherever they passed, and pointed out a village where the inhabitants, not content with exacting twenty tomains from the poor wretches before allowing them to pass a bridge, had also stolen from them two children, and the whole camp were waiting to-day, in hopes of recovering them. We bade them adieu, and every one saluted us in the christian manner in those countries, by making the sign of the cross. Soon after leaving them, we passed a small river, and entered an avenue of poplar trees, which continue to the gates of Khoye, a distance of about a mile. The situation of this city is interesting; it is in a plain, surrounded on three sides by mountains; the environs, for miles, are laid out in gardens, which at this time of the year give it a fresh and beautiful appearance. We entered across draw-bridges, through a double set of fortified walls. This place was taken by the Russians in the late war, and has only been evacuated by them about a month. We were escorted by a soldier from the gate to the governor's house, where we were invited to remain.

24th.—We stayed here to-day, for the purpose of disposing of the greater part of our mules and horses, previous to entering Turkey. The khan treated us with much civility: he amuses himself in ornamenting the Koran, and his son is very clever in drawing flowers. About noon,

we experienced a sharp shock of earthquake; one of the domestics, standing by a stream opposite the house, was shaken from his position into the water; for my part, I expected the house about our ears. We were told such occurrences were frequent, and the inhabitants thought very little of them.

25th.—We resumed our journey this morning, at twelve o'clock, after having had some difficulty in procuring the money for the cattle we had disposed of, although the prince (who is governor here) had purchased three of our mules; yet the roguery of his servants gave us trouble, and caused delay. From this we were provided with an extra *mehmandar*, who spoke the Koordish tongue; he had orders to accompany us to Van. An Armenian merchant and servant joined our party, as well as the brother of the Persian consul, at Arzeroom, with two servants; in all, our party was strong: the road being dangerous we were glad of their company, and were all more or less armed. After traversing a fertile plain for about two hours, we entered a defile of mountains, and came to a rapid torrent. It now began to rain, otherwise the romantic scenery must have made the ride very agreeable; it did not cease raining for eight hours, during which time we had been ascending continually, over numerous very awkward and dangerous passes, frequently not finding footing sufficient for our horses; high rugged precipices

on every side, with frightful descents beneath; and night closed on us long before we were able to make any habitation. We struck off the small path-way to a neighbouring village, in hopes of getting shelter from the rain, which had by this time completely drenched the whole party; to our infinite surprise, not a soul was to be found, and every door was fastened; the natives (Koords) had commenced their pastoral life, and had left the village but a few days before. Our only resource was to endeavour to find the way to our original path. We proceeded, with great difficulty, for two hours, by the side of the same stream, in total darkness, when we reached a miserable village, consisting of about eight cottages, inhabited by Koords; they were very unwilling to be disturbed at so late an hour (eleven p. m.) We, however, succeeded in procuring admission into a wretched shed, which horses and all found an asylum. The consul's brother and our Tabreez *mehmandar* proceeded on to Cattura, about two hours' ride from this, which we hoped to have made, had not the weather proved so bad. We succeeded in quieting the furious conduct of the inhabitants of the village, who had at first taken us for Russians, and were hospitably treated, and visited by the chief so late as midnight. Here I observed the Persian cap supplanted by the Turkish turban, and the religion Osmondlies. We partook of some new-baked cakes, excellent fresh butter, and sour

milk; and reposed on some carpets, spread on each side of the fire.

26*th*.—The rain of yesterday had made the roads bad, and this also was a wet day; after travelling one hour and a half through a level valley by the side of the same stream we journeyed with yesterday, we arrived at the filthy village of Cattura, where is an old stone fort. The inhabitants are a wild doubtful set of Koords, who are as likely to take the Persian side as live under the jurisdiction of the Pacha of Van :—this is the frontier of the Turkish dominions in this quarter. Before entering the village, we observed the consul's brother descending from the fort to meet us; and a little further on, our Tabreez *mehmandar*, in a pitiful condition, his face swollen, and a severe cut on the nose. We now learnt that, immediately on our arrival at the last village, six Koords saddled their horses, and flew to Cattura, to give the alarm that the Russians had entered and taken the place; the consequence was, that those who proceeded last night met with a rough reception, and in endeavouring to get housed, had to defend themselves against the fury of an enraged mob. The consul's brother, who was known here, had to cleave a fellow to the ground before they could be persuaded whom they were. It was a fortunate occurrence for the rest of our party, that they had not proceeded forward last night, or else the affair might have been more serious. We preferred pro-

ceeding, rather than stay here for refreshment; and directed our way towards Serai, which, we were told, was three hours' journey. Both our *mehmandars* remained for the consul's brother, who wished to arrange last night's affair; the consequence was, that we passed the proper road, and were directed wrong by some horsemen. In two hours we were rejoined by the remainder of our party, who had made the same mistake as ourselves; we continued the track we had been directed in, and passed a ruined castle, situated in a marshy plain abounding with game. We saw three wild boars close to us. The track became lost on entering some reeds; it began to snow, which made things worse; we turned off this track, and followed some sheep walks for two hours, when it cleared up, and we observed a village at some distance; but, on approaching it, we found nothing but ruins: it was not till now (one p. m.) that we became convinced we were lost. After wandering about in the wildest of mountains for some time, we got once more into the valley we had quitted in the morning; here observing the marks of horses' feet, it immediately struck us the horsemen who had directed us in the early part of the day must have passed this way, and that, if we continued this only hope of road, we must sooner or later come to some dwelling or encampment. We journeyed in this manner up a pretty valley, by the side of a stream, that led to a high range of

mountains, which we crossed; the tracks were still perceptible, although in many places the snow was two or three feet deep. We gained the summit of the mountain, and looked anxiously for some roof, for the sun was getting low in the horizon. At six p. m. we began descending, for the first time since leaving Khoye, and proceeding for an hour further, we saw a building at some short distance off the road, which we marked, in case of our not being able to meet with anything better.

I rode on for about two miles before our party, to gain the top of a hill before the sun was completely down, in hopes of discovering some place that might afford us shelter; but I could perceive nothing but wild mountains covered with snow, in one of the most extensive views I ever beheld, for a distance, I may safely say, of fifty miles. I hastened down the hill, to inform our party of my ill success, when it was decided that we should return to the hut we had passed, and so weather out the night, for our mules and horses were tired; it began to snow ere we reached it, but what was our distress, on dicovering it not to be a house, but an uncouth rock; it continued snowing till day-break. We had no provisions, or any spirits with us, and not one of the party could boast of a dry spot in any of his garments; we struck a light, but were requested by our Persian servants to put it out, lest any of the wandering Koordish tribes should perceive us, and mistake us for Russians,

in which case we should probably all have been massacred; in this miserable situation we had some difficulty in keeping animation till morning; our cattle, too, suffered from want of food and the severity of the night, being exposed to a climate rarely met with in the country from whence they came (Khorasan).

27th.—At daybreak we called a muster, and having caught our horses, which had been strolling about during the night in search of food, we shook the snow from our coverings, and mounted. The *mehmandars* were determined to return, whilst we considered it most prudent to get into the old track, but which, by this time, had become lost. Some hills that I remarked last night, and the direction in which the sun rose, were our only guides; we continued descending for two hours, when we came to a ruined village, and some cultivated land. We were now in hopes of soon approaching some human being; but in this wild country it is difficult to find a tribe in the same spot for six days together, as the pasturage, at this season, is not sufficiently advanced to satisfy their numerous herds. After continuing for two hours farther, I could discern, from the summit of a small hill, a caravan of camels at a great distance, and we immediately dispatched a muleteer towards them: in half an hour more, as I rode in advance, I came all at once upon a flock of sheep, attended by a shepherd; we all eagerly inquired the way to

Van, or if we were near any village, when he told us we were within two hours of the fortress and town of Koshab, ten hours of Van, and that we had strayed twenty miles, at least, south of the direct road. We each got a bowl of sheep's milk, and proceeded; in an hour and a half we made the welcome fort, and sent one of our *mehmandars* on to inform the Bey who we were, and how situated. He immediately evinced his hospitality and kindness, in sending us a man to procure a lodging; and in a short time the generous Koords made us a good repast of pillaw (made from wheat), some eggs, *yaurt*, or sour milk, cheese, and a roasted lamb, which was soon devoured by our hungry party. We made a halt here for the remainder of the day, to make up for last night's suffering; the natives proved very kind, although their appearance and manner of speaking was savage and uncouth.

28*th*.—After a pleasant night's repose, and the Bey having provided us with a guide, we again started for Van. From a pass, soon after leaving the town, we had a fine view of the castle, which is built on a high rock, surrounded by a wall, rising almost perpendicularly from the plain: the town is partly separated from the fortress by a river, and the whole is encircled by a high range of hills. We descended through a narrow valley, close to a small river, and passed a camp of Koords, a little off the road; upwards of one hun-

dred horses belonging to them were grazing round about. In two hours we arrived at another encampment; the chief came out to us, and we were obliged to halt till our *mehmandar* told him who we were: on learning we were Faringeés (English) he appeared satisfied, and allowed us to proceed. In four hours we passed a number of irregular cavalry from Van, going to Koshab; every man was armed according to his own fancy—some had lances, others swords and shields, but all carried pistols—many had four, and none less than a brace. In five hours and a half we arrived at an Armenian village, where we refreshed, and procured additional horses, to enable us to cross a set of very high mountains, with bad roads. We were some time in gaining the summit, from whence the view of the town and lake of Van is very beautiful, but was now obscured by a thick mist. It was nearly night before we arrived at the gates of the city, having previously taken three-quarters of an hour in traversing the extensive suburbs, inhabited by Armenians and Catholics. We were met at the gate by soldiers, who accompanied us to the palace of the Pacha; he immediately ordered us one of the best houses in the town, and a guard of four men.

29*th*.—It was not till this morning that we found ourselves prisoners, not being allowed to move out without the sanction of the pacha, who is but lately arrived here; the former governor, with

the owner of the house in which we lodge (a rich Armenian merchant), having been called to Arzeroom by the Seraskier, upon suspicion of having invited the Russians to Van. We, in consequence, are looked upon rather mistrustfully, as the present pacha has little knowledge of the English, or even from what part of the globe they come. The soldiers sleep in the same apartment with us, and we are attended by the Armenian domestics of the house.

Having sent to request an audience of the pacha, he returned word that he will see us tomorrow, and would be glad if we would send him our arms, or any other European production, to look at, as he was unacquainted with them. We felt obliged to obey, although we did not much relish the idea of parting with the only means we had of defending ourselves, especially being penned up as prisoners, with four fellows ready to execute any order he might please to send.

30*th*.—We have been endeavouring to sell the remainder of our cattle, but cannot find purchasers. There is a fine view of this town from the top of our house; it is very small, and lies under a chain of rocks, on the top of which is the fort and batteries. The waters of the lake are said to be one-third more salt than the sea, but, nevertheless, abound in fish, and wash the extremity of the fortifications on one side, whilst a very pretty plain, well inhabited, surrounds the other part of the city,

which is walled in, besides having a dry ditch, that can be filled from the lake, if required.

At four p. m. the pacha sent for the gentlemen. Horses and servants were in attendance, richly caparisoned, to conduct the Elshee (Ambassador, a title which it is the policy of every European traveller of consequence to assume, it insuring him both protection and respect) to the palace. They were well received, and promised a Tartar (government courier), and an order for horses, with an escort of ten men, to conduct us to Arzeroom; our arms and other articles were sent back, with the exception of a telescope, and a small English sword: the latter was paid for, and the former replaced by a Turkish costume.

May 1st.—Have been waiting all the morning to get clear of the remaining cattle; our Tartar tells us our horses shall be in readiness to-morrow by eight a. m. On inquiring if we might be allowed to see a very ancient Christian church, on an island in the centre of the lake, we were told, if the pacha permitted. We immediately sent to him, but received for answer, that he must first consult the moollahs; this was, in fact, a refusal.

We saw some very good specimens of the arrow-headed character here, carved in the rock immediately beneath the fortress. This is a place of great antiquity, having been the residence of Queen Semiramis.

2nd.—Having settled with our Persian grooms

and muleteers, and given presents to the *mehmandars*, our Tartar and horses being in attendance, we mounted, and gladly departed from a place where we had been so sharply looked after, and so pestered with the four guards continually at our heels, wherever we moved. Not being able to clear the town before one p. m., we only made the Armenian village of Djanik to-day: we skirted the lake, from the commencement of which cultivation presented itself everywhere; and carts, drawn by buffaloes, were seen in all directions. The tilling of the land I noticed to be superior to anything we had seen during our travels in Persia; the fact is, that all trade and husbandry work is carried on by the Christians, who are numerous and industrious. During our ride we passed several Armenian villages, the chief of which is generally a Turk. The scenery is very grand, and the high mountains of Koordistan, on the opposite side of Van, have a bold and majestic appearance, rising beyond the limpid waters of this beautiful lake*.

Our lodging to-night was of the humblest kind; but we did not fare so ill. The peasantry, finding we were Christians, were glad to serve us with

* Bitlis, on the other side of the lake, and directly opposite to Van, is a very considerable town, well peopled by Turkish Koords and Armenians; the latter carry on a considerable trade in tobacco, which is cultivated in great abundance in the neighbourhood, and is transported to the markets of Arzeroom and Constantinople, where it is esteemed for its excellent quality.

every article they could give, rather than otherwise; they are held in great subjection in the remote villages, and suffer much from the cruelty of the Mussulmen; rarely indeed do they receive a *para* from them in return for anything they supply them with.

3rd.—Started off early this morning, leaving our guard behind, with the exception of their major (a Koord), who accompanied us another stage. We were nine hours in rounding the lake, and making the post-station that was pointed out to us this morning, as being on the opposite side from where we started. In one hour we passed a camp of Koords; their horses and sheep were grazing on the slopes of the hills, which afforded the sweetest pasturage, down to the very shores of the lake. Four hours brought us to the top, where I observed quantities of game, and wild fowl of many sorts; with numerous herds of cattle, which belong to several encampments, in different parts of an immense plain that runs towards the mountains from the lake, and terminates in a narrow valley. Here we crossed an old stone bridge, over a deep and rapid river; its masonry appeared to be the work of Christians, but in a very remote age. White pelicans, wild swans, geese, and ducks of various species, were in such numbers as to darken the air. In five hours we came to another encampment, of about three hundred Koords, pitched in a charming spot, by the

side of the lake, near to which ran a clear mountain stream: here we observed very large birds of the crane species; their plumage is of a slate colour, and the tail is like that of the ostrich. After travelling eight hours we left the road a little, at the request of our Tartar, and proceeded to some rocks, where he showed us a cave, said to be infested by immense-sized reptiles; and also a fine specimen of the arrow-headed letter, sculptured in two different places; there appeared much of this extraordinary and unknown language in a small space, as the letters were of a more diminutive nature than what we had hitherto seen. From this we passed some villages, and in an hour got to the walls of Ardjich, an old ruined stone-built town, with a garrison of a few Turks, and governed by a bey. We could not procure horses, and were obliged to sleep in a wretched post-house, full of vermin. I observed a mosque and a church, so close to each other, that I think their fabrication must have touched.

4th.—Were off this morning early, and ran some danger of being drowned in fording a mountain torrent, but a short distance from the town; the heavy rains of the preceding night had covered the whole plain, and, in consequence, the ferry became lost. In one hour and a half we arrived at an Armenian village, and were shocked at the appearance of the carcases and skeletons of cattle lying about the narrow streets; the stench reached us long before we entered. On inquiry, we were

told it was the cruel acts of the Koords, who had come and destroyed all the cattle they could meet with, because the poor peasantry would (or more likely could) not satisfy their demands for corn. In three hours we left the lake, and passed a Persian caravan from Arzeroom to Tabreez; and in four hours, two more Armenian villages, close under mount Lephan, with the same disgusting spectacle of dead cattle, strewed by dozens all around. Such is the savage conduct of Koords, who would as soon shed the blood of the poor Christians themselves, if they offered any resistance. We continued for four hours more, over a beautiful country of meadows and picturesque hills, well peopled by the Koords, when we arrived at the neat little town of Tasch Koun, and lodged in the chief's dwelling. Here, again, we noticed quantities of dead cattle lying in the road. The old man told us the same story: he said another tribe of Koords (or more properly Iliots) had visited the same sort of revenge upon them.

We were shown a Russian musket, which had been taken in a skirmish but a short time ago. Provisions are very scarce here, and the natives see the ill effects of not cultivating sufficient land to produce corn for so great a population; as no vegetation is even to be found in the country, of course the consumption of bread must be greater.

5th.—Were away this morning by five o'clock, and occupied five hours in crossing a mountainous country, before meeting any habitation. Some

distant hills were pointed out to us as being the extreme line of the Russian possessions at this moment; whether they will be able to keep them or not is another question*.

In six hours we got to a well-populated town (Lata), with a garrison of about 1,000 men. The place is governed by a bey; we were well received by him, and made to take breakfast in his dwelling. The curiosity of the soldiers, who were all anxious to examine our arms, &c. was extremely annoying. We were told that an encampment of 5,000 Turks were in the mountains, but a short distance from this. At one p. m. we bade the bey adieu, and proceeded over a very fertile and well-cultivated country, with a gentle descent, for three hours, when we passed a monastery, at a short distance on the left of the road. Three quarters of an hour brought us to a considerable Armenian village; the population, I may say, consisted of 2,000 souls, all fine healthy people. In four hours and a half we gained another equally well-peopled Christian village (Yangali), and were obliged to put up for the night, on account of rain. We are now but one hour and a half from the main branch of the Euphrates, which we cross to-morrow, and only ten hours from Mouch. We were well

* A few weeks after we traversed this very interesting country, it fell into the hands of the Russians. The seraskier's army, although three times the force of the Russians, fell back wherever the troops of the victorious Paskevitch appeared.

treated, and always received the best fare the poor Christians could afford, wherever we met them.

6th.—Our Tartar having sent a man off to the river early this morning, to get the float ready, we were away by six o'clock, and in one hour arrived at the bank of the Euphrates, where we had our baggage unpacked, and sent across at two different times, with our saddles and bridles; the horses, being driven into the water, swam over, the float (supported by inflated sheep-skins) not being large enough to convey us all at once across the river; its breadth here is about one hundred yards, and the current is very gentle, but deep; its waters are turbid, and particularly cold. I must here remark how a simple occurrence will often create the greatest surprise, especially in a country where the natives are kept in a state of ignorance:—Having arrived on the opposite bank of the Euphrates, before any of the rest of our party, I coiled up our luggage cords, and when the raft was about the centre of the current, threw them after the manner of our seamen, and succeeded in making them cross the raft; the astonished ferryman caught it with amazement, and soon worked himself ashore, at some distance above the common landing-place. The poor fellow begged me to show him the manner in which the miracle was performed, and said he would procure a long line, and adopt the plan, as he was often carried far below the ferry, and sometimes had much difficulty in

securing a landing at all. Immediately on gaining the opposite side, we took to the mountains, and in one hour from the river arrived at three Koordish tents; our Tartar conducted us to one of them. Some men and women were milking the sheep and goats, whilst a woman was boiling milk, in a large copper kettle, in a corner of the tent, which is appropriated to cooking, and separated from the other parts by a partition of thin fence-work. She left her employment, and conducted the gentlemen into the tent, spread carpets and cushions for them, and as soon as they were seated presented them with pipes; after this she hurried to bake some cakes, and in a few minutes we all refreshed on excellent sour milk, cheese, and millet bread. During this time the chief had been within ten yards of us, busily employed milking, but did not leave his occupation till he had finished, and let the lambs loose to their dams; he then went to a brook, and, after washing his hands and face, entered the tent and made us welcome, regretting we could not stay all night: after remaining a short time we bade them farewell, and proceeded. A few pins, which I gave the daughters of the chief, were as much thought of as jewels would be in many parts of Europe. After continuing for four hours over some very fine mountains, covered with excellent pasturage, we came to a noble valley, watered by a fine river, and full of villages, inhabited by Christians. Three hours up this valley brought us to the post-

station, a considerable Armenian town (Kanous Kouremai), on the banks of the same little river I before mentioned; here we entered an old church, close to the town, where they were performing mass. The building is very ancient, and the curious figures of sculpture on the tomb-stones in the cemetery that surrounded the church represented horses ready saddled, rams, &c.; all, indeed must have been the work of many ages past.

7th.—Left this morning early, and after travelling one hour over a level country we passed an Armenian village; from this we were five hours on the Bin Guil* mountains, of a very barren and wild appearance, where we passed some horsemen, and descended into a beautiful narrow valley, crossed a stream, and got on a line of hills, and at last joined the river Araxes, which we forded, and put up in the village of Khooli, about half an hour beyond it: here we overtook the pacha, who had been called from Van, and is now on his way to Arzeroom. The Armenian gentleman who is with him called on us, attended by ten or fifteen Turkish guards; when we told him we lodged in his house during our stay in Van, he said he regretted much that he was not there to receive us, and that his door was always open to any stranger. On our telling him that we had seen his children, and that they were all well, he was much affected,

* Thousand springs. The river Araxes, and one of the western heads of the Euphrates, take their source in these and the neighbouring mountains (the Shoo-welun-daglee).

and left us. His being possessed of much property is alone a sufficient cause for his *having been arrested, without having had any correspondence with the Russians.* Numbers of irregular cavalry have passed this afternoon, on their way to oppose the Russians; one party I observed unfurled the green banner, bordered with red. We had our dinner sent us from the pacha's tent. The inmates of the lodging we occupied complained much of the manner in which they were oppressed by the Turks. I was told that the Christian priests, from most of the villages in these parts, had been sent to Constantinople, by order of the seraskier, on suspicion of having communicated with the Russians. On asking a well informed old man what the population of Christians amounted to, including Van and Mouch, with Upper Armenia, he answered about eight millions; he also told me that annual pilgrimages were made to Jerusalem; and that many of the rigid Armenians visited Mouch, where there is a relic of St. John the Baptist, being, as well as I could understand, the print of his hand on a fountain.

The Armenians long for the approach of the Russians, whom they represent as their deliverers from bondage, and even go so far as to assert, that they have two years' provisions under ground, for the supply of 1,000 men, and that every village has the same.

8*th.*—Were off this morning soon after day-

break. Immediately after quitting the village, we commenced ascending and descending the most rugged and inaccessible country I ever remember. In two hours we passed a caravan of merchandise from Bagdad to Arzeroom. The scenery from some of the mountains was of a mixed and very picturesque appearance; for one hour we were surrounded with snow, and at another travelling through beautiful groves of trees, with the Araxes at some distance below us; views on views were continually varying, as far as the eye could reach. In five hours we came to the advanced part of the immense caravan that we had met with in the morning; they amounted to about four hundred horses, and fifty men; we had some trouble in passing them in many narrow paths of the mountains. After descending continually, for two hours, we arrived at a neat village, on the borders of an immense plain, where we observed a few Mussulmen at their devotions, on a grass-plat, a little way from their dwellings; here the mountains of Koordistan terminate. Two hours across the plain brought us to the pretty little fortified town of Hassan Kalla; previous to entering we crossed a small river, near to which there is a bath of mineral waters. The town is placed on the side of a hill, with an old fort on a rock above it, and is walled all round. We lodged at the post-house, the first regular Turkish *chapper khaun* we have as yet met with, not having come the

common route of European travellers from Persia, by way of Bayazeed and Diaden, as in that case we should have had to pass the Russian posts, where our papers would probably have been strictly examined. The stabling is very extensive, with a well inside, and one end partitioned off for the reception of travellers:—coffee is always ready in five minutes after your arrival, and it is astonishing how alert they are in procuring you a dinner of several dishes.

9th.—Left early this morning, and journeyed up the valley for three hours, when we passed a little village, and observed several carts, drawn by buffaloes; the land is very neatly cultivated, and bears a fertile appearance. Two hours after passing the plain, and crossing some bare hills, called camel's neck, we arrived at the well-situated city of Arzeroom. I counted upwards of thirty minarets and other towers rising from the bosom of this, the ancient capital of Armenia. We had sent a Tartar on to the seraskier, to apprise him of our coming; he sent a messenger, who met us close to the gates: after passing through a cemetery, we entered some wretched fortifications, which had been but lately erected, in case the Russians should surprise them. After traversing some narrow filthy paved streets, we were conducted into the citadel, whose ancient walls still bear the sign of the cross. We were taken to a nobleman's house, where every attention was paid to us, and

the gentlemen were presented to the seraskier two hours after our arrival, and granted a Tartar and firman for Constantinople. During the afternoon we were visited by the Persian consul, who came to receive some letters we had brought for him, and also by an Italian doctor, who is in the service of the seraskier; he (the doctor) intimated that he wished to return to Europe, but the seraskier would not grant him a firman, saying he could not dispense with his services.

Our apartments here are of a better description than those we were accustomed to occupy in Persia. In this country there appears to be no scarcity of wood or stone, two articles rarely met with there; tiles are also used for roofing, which gives the buildings an European appearance, and the form of the houses much resembles the Swiss cottages. The entrance to the principal part of a Turkish mansion is generally up a spacious set of wooden stairs; on each side of the landings are small benches, where the guards and under officers are in attendance; they have a carpet, spread with cushions, where they sit smoking their long pipes. After traversing a passage, you enter the double doors of a spacious saloon, the ceiling of which is ornamented with carved wood, and paintings of flowers, in oil colours; a divan (covered with cushions), two feet broad by eighteen inches high, is placed round two sides of the room; at one end is a window, and at the other the entrance, opposite

which is a recess where the beds and covers are placed during the day; close to it is a rack for resting pipe-sticks, and a box for the mouth-pieces is placed on a shelf near it, where sherbet glasses, a jar of water, and a bason, are always to be found; near the door also is a cord, on which towels are hung; the floor is covered with a rich carpet, and at the entrance is a matting; here the slippers of the gentlemen are deposited, whilst those of the domestics are left outside. The walls are covered with guns, pistols, swords, &c., looking glasses being rarely met with. In the centre of one side of the room is a wide fire-place, with two large irons for burning wood upon; opposite this, during the night, a large brass lamp is placed, which lights the whole saloon.

I had not an opportunity of ascertaining correctly the population of this city; but, from what I saw, I should consider it equal to, if not more than that of Tabreez. Its elevation is considerable, as indeed is that of the whole country round, and it is in consequence subjected to sudden changes of weather.

To give a description of the town would only be doing that which has already been done a hundred times,—I therefore hasten to resume our journal.

CHAPTER VIII.

Leave Arzeroom—Reinforcements for the Army —Banished Armenians—Effects of an Earthquake—Fertile Country—Curious Mountains — Kala Hissar — Anecdote — River Kirisoun — Romantic Village — Forests — Extensive Views—Niksar—Roman Bridge—Approach to Tokat—Place of Execution—Amassia—Marble Fountains—Wine—Silver Mines — Mineral Ore Hills — Osmanjook — Pleasant Scenery — Quarrel between two Tartars — Rice Fields—Barren Country—Governor of the Province—Bivouac of Caravans—Extensive Forests—Provisions for the Army—Boli—Heavy Roads—Power of Tartars—Ruins—Sherbet—Gulf of Nicomedia—Is-Nickmid — Splendid Scenery—Jackals — Gaybaissa—Cemeteries — Luxuriant Country View of Constantinople — Encampment of Cavalry—Scutari—Palace of Seraskier Pacha —Seraskier — Kind Reception — Galata — Pera—Anxiety of the Turks respecting War —Progress of the Russians in the last Campaign — Russian Prisoners — Arrival of English and French Ambassadors—Sir R.

Gordon's Visit to Grand Vizier—Presentation to Grand Signior — Successes of Admiral Greig—Diebitsch — Ingenious Stratagem — Adrianople falls—Success of Paskevitch in Asia—Consternation in Constantinople—Conspiracy detected—Executions—Advance of the Russians—Fears of an Insurrection—Sultan compelled to Treat with Diebitsch—Peace—Extensive Conflagration—Departure to join our Fleet—Itinerary.

May 10th.—HAVING procured a Tartar and horses, we got away by ten a. m. I observed quantities of irregular troops lounging about the streets. In a short time we cleared the town, and commenced crossing an immense cultivated plain, watered by the Kara-Sou (black water), one of the western branches of the Euphrates; this stream takes its source in the mountains, about twenty-five miles from Arzeroom. After passing several villages, and quantities of soldiers on their way to join the grand army, we halted for refreshment, at the village of Elija, about two hours from Arzeroom, and entered a khan, or coffee-house, situated near some hot mineral springs and baths.

After remaining a short time we again started. We continued by the side of the river, over a very fine country; passed a ruined caravanserai, or khaun, of very ancient structure, and soon crossed the Euphrates, over an old stone bridge, that had

been lately much injured by the shock of an earthquake. We journeyed for half an hour on the right bank to the post-station, a considerable village, Ash-Kala, inhabited by Armenians. Quantities of cavalry have arrived here this evening, on their way to the theatre of war.

11*th*.—Left this morning, and travelled seven hours on the right bank of the Euphrates. The first four hours brought us to the Khaun Shoo Ghaiu, where we refreshed off some milk and millet bread, furnished us by some Koords, who had their tent pitched in the vicinity. Having breathed our horses, we remounted; and it was not till then our Tartar told us to keep close together, and have our arms in readiness in case of attack; for we are now in the Sheitan Dura (Devil's Valley), and the heaps of stones we sat on during our refreshment, he said, were the tombs of victims who had been murdered by banditti in this terrific pass. We left the khaun, and sharpening our pace, soon cleared the *valley of horror*.

The scenery continued mountainous, and the valleys well cultivated. On leaving the river we entered a wild country, somewhat wooded, and but thinly peopled, where we passed about two hundred Armenians, on their way to Van; crossed a very picturesque pass in the mountains, and were shown the effects of an earthquake, which had levelled a very high hill, and turned the course of a mountain stream. After descending through a

valley, for about three hours, we arrived at the post-station, an Armenian village.

12*th*.—Left this morning as early as four o'clock, and long before day-break. On leaving the village, we commenced travelling in the mountains, and continued for five hours before meeting with any habitation. We were surrounded by the grandest scenery on every side; fertile valleys, watered by clear mountain streams, and rich plains of pasturage, covered with flowers, emitting the most fragrant perfume:—we here passed several mineral springs. After clearing a continuation of plains and valleys, we ascended a chain of mountains* (the Alma-lee-Dagler), covered with pine, from whence we descended into a succession of narrow valleys, following a river for two hours. In three quarters of an hour more, across a plain and open country, we arrived at the post-station (Kalket), an interesting little village, situated near a delightful stream; the corn fields looked green and fresh, while the summits of the high mountains in the neighbourhood were covered with snow. We much enjoyed the change of scenery here, and more so the general comfort one experiences travelling *en poste*, in comparison with Persia. I have invariably noticed in this country, that wherever

* Wolves, wild sheep, black bears, and the ibex, are inhabitants of these wilds.

there is an abundant supply of wood and water, there is also found industrious people. After refreshing, we mounted fresh horses, and proceeded; crossed the before-mentioned stream, and in half an hour entered a forest, on the slope of a mountain; from the summit we had a splendid view of mountain forest scenery, as far as the eye could reach. In two hours from the station we passed about three hundred Armenians, on their way to Van, from Constantinople; they told us they had been sent away by order of the Sultan, owing to the scarcity of provisions. In three hours we made Shayran, a very delightful and Swiss-like village, in a fertile valley. We stopped at the governor's house, where we were well treated, and remained till morning.

13th.—We left about six a. m., and travelled for the first four hours in a forest, up and down hill continually; the scenery is grand and interesting; on either side of us are high chains of mountains, the slopes of which are either majestic forests, or strewed with neat patches of cultivated land, and in the country before us, through which we have to travel, are very extensive villages. After quitting this beautiful woodland scenery, we were four hours in a valley, following the course of a fine stream. The rains had been very heavy of late, and, in consequence, the roads were in such a state as scarcely to be passable. After quitting this valley, we were two hours in mountains of a

very extraordinary appearance*, from whence we descended upon a large river (the Kara Boulac, or Kirisoun), which we crossed, over a stone bridge. We now traversed the most luxuriant and picturesque valley I ever beheld, covered with the summer residences of the neighbouring gentry. On our right were rocky conical mountains, of gigantic height; the town of Kara-Hissar (or Black Castle), on a high hill before us; and hanging over it a promontory, on the summit of which is a strong fortification; whilst the poplars and walnut trees, on the banks of the river, were trembling in the wind, and seemed bowing low to the majestic mountains we had just left. We suddenly quitted winter here for the most beautiful spring; all, indeed, inspired and relieved us after a long and tiresome journey of more than twelve hours. The last three quarters of an hour was up a very steep ascent into the town. We lodged at the post-house. A short time before our arrival my horse became completely knocked up, when our Tartar called to some countrymen, who were passing, and desired them to stop, and give me a horse, to carry me to the town. They did not seem disposed to comply with his demand, and endeavoured to get away; he, however, intercepted

* A great traffic is carried on from these districts, in consequence of the quantities of alum produced in the mountains. Pitch is also made from the burning of trees in the forests; and sent, by way of Trebisond, to Constantinople.

them, and, dismounting, seized one by the throat, and clapping a pistol to his ear, swore he would shoot him if he did not instantly take off my saddle and place it on his horse; the poor fellow was obliged to comply, and, I having mounted his nag, he was ordered to follow us to the post-house, bringing with him the jaded animal. The countryman soon after arrived, and his only reward was a severe beating with the pipe-stick of our Tartar, for having dared to dispute his commands, and a threat that, if he grumbled at this, he would report him to the bey, who would punish him more severely.

14*th*.—We this morning bade adieu to some of the most romantic scenery man ever beheld, and were occupied two hours and a half in descending over a fine country, when we again joined the river we crossed yesterday, and journeyed on its right bank all the afternoon. This river is wide and rapid, and the scenery, which is rocky and wooded, much resembles that of the Danube, between Passau and Lintz. During the day, we frequently had to wade in the water up to our horses' girths, and many of the passes were very narrow, hanging over the brink of the rapid current. The scenery was continually changing; for a short distance the river was shut out from our view, and then broke unexpectedly upon us, where the water had overflown its banks and formed a lake. We soon cleared the rocks, and galloped across a

plain, covered with trees. About one hour previous to arriving at Koyla-Hissar, we passed two mineral springs, on the opposite side of the river; a small building is erected over them. The road here turns off abruptly to the right, and we gazed with astonishment on the almost perpendicular pass we had to ascend to the post-station. An old castle is on the summit of a rocky height above the village; and when we arrived at the top, we looked with admiration on the loveliest spot in nature, high amongst the mountains,—hid from the noisy world, —remote in nature's very bosom,—surrounded with vines and walnut trees, and enjoying almost every fruit common in Asia; the surrounding mountains are capped with snow, and seldom trod upon, except by the red deer, the wolf, or bear. We refreshed here, and immediately commenced ascending, which continued for nearly three hours, through a fine forest. It is to be regretted, that not one-hundredth part of the timber is ever required, and we frequently had to scramble over majestic pines, which, having fallen from age, lay rotting in the path. We were benighted ere we could clear the forest; and being thoroughly wet (for it had rained for the last four hours) did not contribute much to our comfort. Our Tartars determined on stopping short of the post-station, at a village on the verge of the forest, where we succeeded in getting shelter, in the house of a gentleman, where a good fire was blazing, and

everything to make us comfortable was provided. The host, with some friends (Turkish officers on their way to Arzeroom), seemed to enjoy themselves, and were evidently pleased with our company. After partaking of a good and plentiful repast, we slept soundly for about three hours.

15*th*.—Were off long before day-break this morning; our ride, for five hours, lay through noble forests and rich pasturage, and we were every now and then coming upon a pretty little village. The white-washed minaret, towering above the rural buildings, so much resembled the Alpine villages, that we could almost fancy ourselves in Europe.

We refreshed, and changed horses at Is-Cassar, and were five hours before reaching the next post-station; the first three hours over high hills, catching superb views, for miles round, of mountain and forest scenery. After crossing the bare summit of some hills, we all at once caught a view of the luxuriant and beautiful valley of Niksar, below us. We descended for two hours before coming to a level, through forests of lime, walnut, and oak trees; the odour from the wood was delightful; and the numerous enchanting spots we saw inhabited, by the side of a fine mountain stream, rolling down the valley, was a pleasing sight on our approach to Niksar, whose ancient castle and dilapidated bridge speaks evidently of what it once had been. We were half an hour in traversing

the streets and bazaars; scarcely a house was to be distinguished from between the vines, fig, and walnut trees, with which they are surrounded; and the cypress adorns the peaceful cemeteries, where rest the bodies of the departed inhabitants.

After getting refreshment, and a treat of cherries, we mounted fresh horses, and proceeded: in half an hour we arrived at the ruins of the above-mentioned old Roman stone bridge, which once crossed the river here;—I counted more than fifteen arches still remaining. The rains had swollen the water, and the float that was to have taken us across could not be brought sooner than we could reach another bridge, which is some distance farther down; we therefore made towards it, and in half an hour were across the river. This bridge was also constructed at a remote period, and is much decayed. After ascending gradually across a plain, we got into a fine forest, on the slope of a mountain. At ten p. m. we commenced gradually descending, and continued for an hour and a half over good roads; we here joined another large river, and travelled on its bank for an hour; then crossed over a bridge, and kept on the left bank, where we passed the ruins of a temple, or some other ancient building. The approach to Tokat is pleasing; the roads are, for two miles, ornamented on each side with gardens, the perfume from which is most delicious, and the nightingale, warbling

its sweet song, was the only sound to be heard in the calm stillness of the night. It was half-past one a. m. when we arrived at the post-house.

16*th.*—We remained here till nine a. m., when an Armenian, one of the nine hundred who had been banished from Constantinople, in January 1828, paid us a visit, and, with the assistance of our Tartar, procured us a comfortable apartment in the house of an Armenian *seraff*, or banker, who treated us very kindly. We remained here all day. I observed quantities of copper lying in the square we inhabit; and was told there is a mine in the neighbourhood, from whence it is brought. We heard some pitiable accounts from the Armenians, who had been sent here from the capital.

17*th.*—Obtained post-horses, and left. Having crossed the river, over a fine stone bridge, we journeyed on its banks for three quarters of an hour:—on the road I observed about twenty eagles, vultures, and other birds of prey, devouring the dead carcass of an ox. We were in a plain for about two hours, where quantities of all kinds of cattle were feeding,—then crossed a chain of low hills, covered with excellent pasturage, and entered the little town of Turkal; there is an old castle built on a rock in the centre of the town. The price of provisions, especially bread, increases as we approach the capital.

We changed horses, and proceeded for Amassia.

After travelling for two hours in a valley, and near the same river we crossed in the morning, we made a halt at a solitary house, where we took coffee. There is a place near to this for the execution or torture of all prisoners condemned in this part of the country. After crossing a range of hills, covered with forests, we arrived at an extensive plain, well inhabited, and, for the major part, cultivated. Within one hour of Amassia we commenced descending a valley, and passed through a narrow chasm in a rock; the road winds round a very picturesque chain of hills into the beautiful remains of the once-famed Amassia*. It was ten p. m. when we arrived at the outskirts of the town, and the reflection of the moon upon the old castle (on a rock above the town), and minarets, had a fine effect; after traversing the streets for about a quarter of an hour we arrived at the post-station, where we had a wretched apartment, but slept soundly till morning. There are six horse-loads of gold lying in the yard; a Tartar is on his way to Arzeroom with it for the supply of the army.

18*th*.—The situation of this town is highly picturesque; it is placed at the top of a fertilized narrow plain, watered by a fine river, and surrounded on all sides by mountains. At the top of an almost perpendicular rock is seen the remains

* This city is well known as the birth-place of Mithridates.

of a noble Genoese castle; beneath it are a number of chambers, galleries, passages, &c., excavated in the rock. In the centre of the city, and close on the river, is a superb mosque, with a gilded dome and minarets, rising splendidly from amidst the remains of Genoese art. Quantities of mills are seen on the banks of the river, throwing water into the gardens which surround the town. There are many Greeks and Armenians here, who enjoy their own church. About eight a. m. we quitted, and crossed the river by a solid stone bridge, traversed a rich plain for half an hour, and ascended a beautiful, fertilized, and wooded hill; we travelled for three quarters of an hour through a romantic country high in the hills, and then descended into the extensive plain of Massivan; neat marble fountains are placed, within a short distance of each other, along the side of the road. We were four hours and three quarters up to this place.

Having refreshed and changed horses, we proceeded; before leaving the town, an Armenian, who had accompanied us from Tokat, procured some wine and cake from his friends here, to treat his brother Christians, as he called us. We had not met with the former since our departure from Tabreez, excepting at Van and Tokat, where the grape is cultivated by the Armenians. The plain terminates here. After travelling two hours, we perceived an immense body of smoke rising from the mountains, near to a village, and were told it

was from the silver mines. Having passed the village of Hadji (celebrated for the manufacture of stirrups), in one hour we entered a defile of well-wooded mountains, where we joined a river, and descended through a very pretty valley to several guard-huts;—this post has been famous for robbers. After passing through a succession of delightful valleys, each differing in its appearance from the other, we arrived at some curious hills of mineral ore. At the seventh hour we crossed a range of hills, and entered the finest little plain imaginable, covered with gardens and vineyards; we were three quarters of an hour in a luxuriant and rich country, when we came to the town and fort of Osmanjook, situated on the right bank of a noble river (the Kizzil-Irmak); several mills were at work close to the end of the bridge. The rock on which the fort is built terminates close to the river, which the natives call the Arabistan Sou, or water from Arabia. We put up at the post-house here till morning.

19*th*.—Having procured fresh horses, we crossed the river, over an old stone bridge of fifteen arches, and upwards of three hundred feet long, and journeyed on its left bank through rich meadows and a very picturesque valley. Before entering another valley, we had to ascend a narrow paved road, cut on the side of the mountain, and hanging over the river; the view from the top was so like that of the Rhine, that

we could not help reflecting upon its well-known scenery. We kept continually on the banks of the river for four hours, to Hadji-Humza, a neat country town, surrounded with fruit trees, amongst which the cherry is particularly plentiful. Here we fell in with two Tartars from Bagdad, who were quarrelling; one was a Koord, the other an Arab. The Koord snapped his pistol in the face of his *cardage* (brother), but it missed fire; the Arab then flew upon him with the fury of a tiger, and wounded him in the shoulder with a long knife. They were parted by some Turks; but the fiery Koord swore he would be revenged. He accompanied us for several days; the hole the Arab made in his dress, and the blood with which he was bespattered, are considered as ornaments to those accustomed to such affrays. We procured fresh horses here, and proceeded, still on the banks of the river; a range of bold, lofty mountains appeared on the opposite side, with numerous towns and villages on their slopes; the junction of valleys, and several mountain streams which fall into the Kizzil-Irmak, produced a variety of pleasing scenery. We left it at the third hour, and then entered a fine valley, where the peasantry were busy sowing rice; their manner of flooding the fields, and harrowing the land (it being still under water), with buffaloes, was interesting and novel to us. Within a mile of the town we passed a succession of fountains, on each side of the road; and

also a number of Armenians, on their way to Arzeroom from Constantinople. The noble minarets, and some old Christain buildings, are the only objects in Tosia worthy of notice*. We remained all night.

20*th*.—Resumed our journey this morning by moonlight (four o'clock); we passed a party of Turkish cavalry, at a short distance from the town, on their way to Estamboul; and soon after crossed some hills, towards an open plain, surrounded by high wooded mountains;—halted for a quarter of an hour at a guard-house, where we drank coffee. In five hours and a half we arrived at Kajar-Sir. During the last hour the face of the country entirely altered, from romantic forest scenery to open plains and barren hills. Having changed horses, we proceeded, and in four hours, across a tame flat country, arrived at Kara-Jorem; this proved a neat little town: it rained the whole afternoon. I observed that neither the season nor crops are so advanced here as in the country we passed through some four days ago.

We were three hours in going from this station to Kara-Jular, over an open uninteresting country; a small stream, that had accompanied us for two stages, takes a turn to the left here, towards the

* The green morocco leather, and a sort of camlet, manufactured from the wool of the Angora goat, which is common in this part of the country, are the only articles of trade here.

mountains. We halted at the post-house for a few hours; the village is neat, and built of wood, with a neat mosque.

21*st.*—We left at daylight, and after travelling three hours, in an open country, arrived at the pretty, but ruined town of Chirkiss, where we stopped to refresh, the place being famous for its fresh butter and honey. One hour from this brought us to a rich meadow, where we met the governor of the province with a grand retinue, on his way from Estamboul. He spoke Latin fluently, and was very polite to the gentlemen, and hoped we should meet our ambassador by the time we arrived at the capital, as he was daily expected. On leaving him we ascended, for about half an hour, and from the summit of a fine mountain forest descended to a river immediately under us; the fine expanse of cultivated country, with Hummumloo, the post-station, on the opposite bank of the river, was very picturesque. On our arrival there we found that no fresh horses could be procured; having refreshed, and remained till ten p. m., we determined to proceed with those we had. It was pitch dark when we left, but the moon rose in about an hour afterwards. Our road lay through forests and valleys, and the fires of the numerous caravans we passed, in bivouac, had a wild and singular appearance. We arrived at Garidi by four a. m., and slept three hours in the post-house.

22*nd.*—We procured horses, and proceeded.

Soon after clearing the town we passed about fifty waggons, drawn by buffaloes, on their return from Is-Nickmid, where they had been with grain and flour, from whence it is transported by water to the capital. The scenery was very pleasing this morning; hills, rivers, lakes, and villages were continually breaking upon us, and the country is well populated and fertile. Our road lay through all this, and at the fifth hour we commenced descending (which occupied us two hours) through one continuation of forests abounding in wild apple and pear trees. We had probably met, in all, since leaving the post-station, upwards of five hundred carts, waggons, horses, mules, &c. &c., all laden with provisions for the army. Previous to arriving at Boli, we saw many remains of Genoese and Greek architecture, and also several cemeteries.

Boli is situated in an extremely rich and well-populated plain, watered by a river bearing the same name; the abundant crops everywhere indicate industry. The Christians and Turks here seem to live together in perfect harmony; the town is old, and uninteresting; two-thirds of the population are Greeks and Armenians. We refreshed, and proceeded during a heavy fall of rain; in one hour we entered a thick and most extensive forest, in which we were continually ascending and descending, the whole afternoon; but although the scenery was interesting (for at intervals we were on an eminence which commanded an extensive view over

the tops of the trees), yet the roads, which were paved, proved of the worst description, resembling the old *Roman vias*, and so much ruined, that the waggons passing are obliged to take to the sides of it, and frequently are found sticking in the mud. After a descent of an hour we came to some very beautiful brakes, and were overtaken by a thunder storm accompanied by heavy rain, night closing on us ere we reached Dooz-chi; we were all very wet, and glad when we arrived at the post-house. The town is but small, and situated in the centre of a *country of forests*.

23rd.—Having reposed a short time, we again proceeded, and in one hour from the post-house forded the river Melan, or Mandaris. Some hundreds of carts and waggons, drawn by buffaloes, were making the best of their way over the heavy roads in different parts of the forest. We crossed a deep river, running into the Mandaris, and then re-entered the forest; for one hour we were on a sort of bridge, over a swamp. Our Tartar drove the santry (Christians) into the water, to make way for us; this is a favourite manner these gentry have of showing their authority. In three hours after clearing the forest and crossing some fields, where the Turks and Armenians were equally busy in ploughing, we arrived at a bridge which crosses the Mandaris, and halted at a house close to it, where we partook of bread and sour milk. After a short time we again proceeded, across the river, and at

the fifth hour passed some fine ruins of either an aqueduct or a bridge (we did not leave the road to ascertain which), and also a temple. Soon after this we entered another wood, and passed quantities of camels and horses, with provisions, fighting their way through the mud: the roads were of the worst description to-day. At the seventh hour we arrived at the romantic village of Khaun-Dag, in the forest; abundance of fruit trees, and plentiful gardens, surround this delightful place. Our dragoman (interpreter) was ill of the ague, and we were detained, in consequence, till it became late; and also hearing a bad account of the roads, we determined on remaining for the night at the post-house.

24th.—We were five hours in the forest this morning, and observed more oak timber than before; fir, lime, and beech trees were also in abundance. We stopped at a house on the way, and tasted some sherbet, made from the juice of pears, which grow wild in the forest*. The roads are still bad. Three quarters of an hour before entering the little town and post-station of Sabanja we came to a small lake; the road lay on its shore, under a range of hills, and was sometimes so narrow that the water was up to our horses' girths.

* The whole line of forests, from Boli up to this, is ornamented with numerous beautiful plants, amongst which I observed the oleander, myrtle, holly, rhododendron, and laurel, growing in great profusion.

The scenery here is remarkably fine; extensive chains of mountains; covered with majestic timber on our left, and well-cultivated hills on our right. We refreshed, and proceeded over a fine country, at the foot of the mountains above described;—passed several torrents and clear springs for the first hour,—then entered an open plain, over a good road. The fourth hour presented us a view of the gulf of Nicomedia. We kept continually passing equipages going to and from the capital. Having forded a river and passed a village, we arrived at Is-Nickmid, the once capital of the Romans: the number of cypresses have a beautiful appearance on the hills, which continue to the shores of the Marmora. This once-famed city is now a confused pile of dilapidated buildings; yet I observed a few very curious and somewhat substantial mansions in the modern part of the town: the cemeteries of the Mussulmen resemble pleasure grounds; the graves are covered with flowers, and the tomb-stones, of white marble, are gaudily painted in coloured roses, &c. with gilded inscriptions. The environs of the town are very beautiful, and the views as fine as can be imagined. After taking our coffee we mounted fresh horses, and proceeded; our road lay along the shores of the gulf, the beautiful and lively scenery on the opposite side produced a pleasing and fine effect. We passed some fields of wheat, barley, and oats; the latter grain I have not before observed since leaving Europe.

We travel up and down hill continually, sometimes close on the shores of the sea, at others high on precipices hanging over it; it became dark as we were passing through this delightful scenery. At the third hour from Is-Nickmid we came to a village, close on the gulf, where we took coffee. Immediately on leaving this we ascended a steep hill; the number of fire-flies we met here had a most singular effect. We had not been long on our road when we were alarmed by cries, as if from females; we, however, discovered them to proceed from some jackals. For two hours we kept *au grand galop;* the white stones of the old Roman *pavé* being our only guide over a bare hilly country. It was two a. m. when we arrived at the delightfully-situated town of Gibes, or Gaybaissa. We could procure nothing to eat at that early hour, save some bread made of flour and honey, which we all partook of, together with our usual coffee and pipes, and then threw ourselves on the benches and slept till seven a. m., when our horses being ready, we left, and traversed the lively town and bazaars. I observed a very splendid mosque with numerous minarets, surrounded by a high wall and majestic cypress trees, which serve to ornament the temple of the crescent. On leaving the town we noticed a very pretty cemetery; the major part of the tomb-stones were ornamented, and a complete forest of cypresses,

mingling amongst the sepulchres, had a solemn and novel appearance.

On arriving at the bank of a descent, we had a grand and interesting view—the morning was calm and clear, and everything appeared to give life and inspiration to this most splendid scenery; we could see the whole country we were about to pass, between this and Scutari, which is thickly inhabited, and so rich in cultivation as to form one complete garden, producing every luxury necessary for the supply of a capital.

We now approach Constantinople, and see its watch-towers and minarets rising in the distance, whilst close on our left we gaze with astonishment on the sublimity of the calm Marmora, strewed with boats, stealing o'er its waters with sails extended to receive the gentle breezes, and studded with numbers of small islands. The opposite mountains are covered with majestic forests, and their slopes with towns and villages, surrounded with cypress and fruit trees, even to the water's edge, producing the finest picture imaginable. From this we were three hours over a good road, to a little village on the coast;—here I was informed of the scarcity of bread, and that it had risen to so high a price that the poor natives were in a state approaching to starvation, at one time, on account of the great supplies required for the army of the Balkan. One hour from this

brought us to Kartal, a well-populated town, chiefly inhabited by Greeks :—having refreshed, we immediately proceeded, anxious to arrive at our destination, especially being so near to it. We noticed some encampments of cavalry in the fields, on the side of the road; the tents were painted green, and the horses were grazing near, whilst the Turks were smoking in the shade. In two hours we entered the suburbs of Scutari. I must here remark that, as we approached the capital, the heat became more intense. We were occupied upwards of an hour in traversing the extensive and most beautiful cemeteries; no language can do justice to the beauty and profusion of the cypresses with which they are ornamented. On descending through the centre of the town, I was astonished at the grand appearance of the Bosphorus below us, and the opposite shores of Europe, which were literally studded with habitations. covered to the water's edge with cypress.

Our Tartar procured a large boat, and transferred the baggage from the horses' backs on board of it; here we were beset by numbers of Armenians and Greeks, begging to know what news—who we were—and from whence we came? Once embarked, we bade adieu to Asia, and looked with pleasure on the city. We had been travelling continually for thirty-four days, and performed nearly thirteen hundred miles since our departure from Tabreez; sixteen days had been

occupied from Arzeroom alone to this. The current carried us swiftly down, till we were half-way between Leander's tower and the point of the seraglio; we kept close under its walls, and disembarked at the custom-house. Here we left our baggage, and were conducted by our Tartar (who had dispatches to the Grand Signior) to the palace of the seraskier pacha, and were shown into an immense saloon, ornamented in the most splendid manner. The view from the windows was superb; we could at once look upon the city, Bosphorus, and Marmora. The domestics were well dressed, and many of them Georgians, who had become Mussulmen.

We were somewhat uneasy at the circumstance of our having been brought here, and now detained so long, when all suspicion was removed by the arrival of the seraskier, a venerable old man; he was desirous to hear all the news the gentlemen could give, concerning what we had seen in Upper Asia, and what progress the Russians were making towards Arzeroom. It would appear that the Turks had some faith in the Persians, who they thought might be induced to join them against their enemy. After a good deal of conversation the pacha retired, and servants immediately entered with water and towels, and all our party soon after partook of a sumptuous dinner. Having refreshed, we were told an officer was in attendance to conduct us to Pera, if we did not wish to remain in

the palace. The gentlemen declined the offer. Our baggage was allowed to pass the custom-house untouched, and every attention that was possible to be shown, we received from the Turks.

The officer had a boat waiting, and we crossed to Galata, then made the best of our way to Pera, where we put up at a French hotel.

Everything is perfectly quiet at Pera and Constantinople at this moment; but all naturally look forward with the greatest anxiety to the result of the war, which wears a very gloomy aspect on the part of the Turks, who appeared to be reconciled to the loss of Varna, Anapa, and Brailaw, in 1828, imagining it to be but a temporary reverse of fortune. They now begin to feel very uneasy, and waver in their ideas of certain victory, notwithstanding all the sultan's exertions to persuade them to the contrary. All parties are anxiously looking for the arrival of the ambassadors of England and France, through whose mediation it is hoped a peace will be obtained.

The Turks are extremely jealous of letting any news respecting the war transpire, and it was with the greatest difficulty that I obtained information of their losses on the coast of the Black Sea, at the commencement of the present campaign, which were as follow:—In February last, a Russian squadron (fitted out from Varna) appeared off Sizeopoli, and succeeded in surprising the pacha and taking the town. The place was not con-

sidered of so much importance by the Turks, until after they had lost it; and, immediately on discovering the consequence of its situation, they made an attempt to retake it, but were unsuccessful. Thus the Russian fleet can now co-operate with the land forces, which have invested Silistria, under Wittingen. In May, that general was superseded by Field Marshal Diebitsch, who, after an obstinate resistance by the Turks, succeeded in reducing Silistria.

The Turkish commander now sees his error, in having allowed the Russians to effect a landing in Sizeopoli, where they have not only established themselves, but keep daily disembarking troops without molestation; the Turkish fleet being too insignificant to oppose the Russian admiral, who frequently shows himself off the mouth of the Bosphorus.

The sultan is at his palace at Therapia, and occupies his time in reviewing his new troops, who are encamped in the vicinity.

The weather is particularly fine, and nothing can be more delightful than the scenery on the shores of the Bosphorus. I have been to see the prisoners that were taken in the Russian frigate, the other day; they are employed in the arsenal. There are about four hundred and thirty of their countrymen in the Princes Islands; they are well treated, and appear comfortable.

June 19th.—The anxiety of the Franks is at

length removed, by the arrival of the English and French ambassadors; two frigates, two brigs, a schooner, and a cutter, mounting the British and French flags, are moored off the seraglio.

Nothing can exceed the gaiety of Pera and Constantinople, since the arrival of the ambassadors; the officers and men of the ships of war mix with the inhabitants, and Christian and Turk appear alike to consider them as *friends in need.*

July.—Sir Robert Gordon has made his first visit to the Caimakan (who is officiating for the Grand Vizier, now commanding at Shumla), attended by his suite, our naval officers, and the English residents here. Sir Robert was also attended by a company of marines, preceded by a band of music from the frigate. The streets were lined with Turkish cavalry; the ambassador's barge, and the boats of our ships conveyed the embassy across to Constantinople, where upwards of one hundred horses, beautifully caparisoned, were in waiting to carry them to the vizier's palace. The streets here were also lined with cavalry and infantry. Amongst the immense concourse of spectators, I noticed ten women, at least, to one man.

In the court-yard of the palace, a regiment of the new-regulated infantry, with their band playing in front, were drawn out to receive us. We were then admitted into the grand vizier's presence; and, after the ambassador had read his credentials, returned in the same manner to Pera.

July 12*th.*—Left Constantinople for Buyukderè. The *Blonde* frigate and *Rifleman* sloop of war, which brought Sir Robert Gordon and his suite, also moved to the bay of Buyukderè, where the Turkish fleet is now lying. The French frigate *Armide* is moored opposite the palace at Therapia, on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus. To-morrow is appointed for our ambassador's audience of the Grand Signior, which has created an uncommon interest here; and people from all parts of the surrounding country are continually arriving to witness it.

13*th.*—Early this morning several detachments of Turkish infantry marched into the camp, to perform the military service during the audience. Pieces of artillery were distributed over the surrounding heights nearest to the camp. A grand tent, with two divisions, was erected for the sultan, on a small plain, close to the Bosphorus; the roof of the first division was supported by twenty-four columns, and adorned with an equal number of gilded balls. Under this canopy the visitors approached the interior part of the tent, which was hung with the most costly tapestries; in the background was a splendid throne, over which was extended a capony of red cloth, embroidered and set with rich pearls and precious stones.

Behind this tent, which was destined for the audience, another smaller one was erected, and in this stood a richly-covered sofa, on which the grand signior reposed.

To the right were tents for the ministers, the seraskier, and the sultan's suite; on the left were others, for the embassy; immediately in the rear of these, was the large tent of the Caimacan pacha; further back, was the tent that served for the sultan's kitchen; and finally, all the tents which formed the grand camp.

At ten in the morning, Sir Robert Gordon disembarked from the *Blonde*, and proceeded to the camp in the following order:—

A detachment of marines, and the band of musicians belonging to the *Blonde*.

The ambassador's *chocadares*, fourteen dressed in white and eighteen in red; sixteen servants, in yellow livery; six chamber attendants, in dark blue livery edged with gold; the officers of the ships of war; the interpreter, the secretary, and the first dragoman; the ambassador, on horseback; the gentlemen attached to the embassy; and some English officers and seamen.

On arriving at the caimacan's tent, Sir Robert Gordon alighted from his horse, and was received and welcomed by the seraskier. A conversation was maintained for some time between Sir Robert and the caimacan; a rich repast was then laid out, on five tables, of which the whole of the embassy partook.

At eleven o'clock salutes of artillery announced the approach of the sultan, who mounted his horse at the landing place, and surrounded by his peiks

and salaks, and accompanied by his military escort, proceeded to the audience tent; he wore a violet-coloured *hervani* (military cloak), the collar of which was studded with diamonds; in his turban he had a splendid aigrette, richly set with brilliants; the saddle-cloth and trappings of the horse he rode, as well as the three led horses which followed him, were also richly adorned with brilliants. While the sultan rode along, in front of the troops, they saluted him with three loud huzzas, which were repeated when he alighted from his horse, and on his entering the tent.

The ambassador and his suite were presented with *hervanis*, and, dressed in these mantles, proceeded, at twelve o'clock, to the audience tent.

Sir Robert Gordon addressed the sultan in English; his speech was translated into Turkish by Esrar Effendi, and repeated by the caimacan. After the sultan had intimated the substance of the answer which was to be given, he expressed his satisfaction at finding, that "the King of England "had chosen so enlightened and judicious a man "for his ambassador to the Sublime Porte."

After the caimacan had delivered the speech which formed the official answer of the sultan, the ambassador left the audience tent, and returned to the reception tent. In about half an hour the sultan left the camp, amidst salutes of artillery and the shouts of his troops, to return again to Therapia; the ambassador also departed and pro-

ceeded to the shore, where he embarked on board of the *Blonde*. During these ceremonies, and the whole of the remaining day, the English ships of war and the French frigate were dressed out with flags of every description. The crews of the English ships cheered the sultan as he passed by them in his galley.

One of the most remarkable ceremonials dispensed with at this audience, was, that the ambassador and his suite were permitted to wear their swords, which, on all similar occasions, used to be laid aside. The great number of troops drawn up on the plain, the splendour and richness of the tents, the grandeur of the processions, and the uncommon sight of English marines under arms in a Turkish camp, rendered this audience one of the grandest and most remarkable scenes ever witnessed in the territory of Mussulmen.

Admiral Greig has taken Misemvria, Ahilo, Burgas, Vassilico, Agatopol, Inidia, and Media on the coast of the Black Sea. Being thus enabled to co-operate with Diebitsch, the latter advanced on Shumla, and, surprising the grand vizier (who fled on his approach, leaving behind him some pieces of artillery and a considerable quantity of baggage), thus relieved the Russian army before that place. Admiral Greig having in the mean time thrown in supplies, Diebitsch occupied Burgas, Ados, and Karnabat (on the maritime side of the Balkan), strengthened his forces, and, with thirty thousand

men, resumed his march on Adrianople, by the pass of Kempchick. He succeeded completely in outwitting the Turks, who never dreamt of an invasion from this quarter; and having dispersed a considerable body of Turkish cavalry who came down to oppose him, he sat down close to the walls of Adrianople on the 19th of August. On the following day it surrendered to the victorious Russians, who entered the town in triumph, having achieved this important conquest without the loss of a single man.

During this series of successes in Europe, Count Paskevitch d'Erivan carried everything before him in Asia; Van and Arzeroom have fallen into his hands, and the whole of Armenia is now occupied by a Christian army. The confusion and consternation which these events have caused, in and about Constantinople, is excessive; and the report that the Russians are advancing, without interruption, towards the capital, renders the disorder still more tumultuous. Quantities of irregular troops from Asia arrive daily; the patrol on the shores of the Bosphorus is doubled: boats are seen flying in all directions, with troops to oppose the enemy; and the sultan, with his camp of newly-regulated troops, have removed to barracks on the Adrianople side of Pera. A conspiracy has been detected, and the old expedient of beheading or strangling is resorted to; every day the headless trunks of three or four poor wretches may be seen

lying in the streets. The Christians are in a state of great alarm for their safety, and are doubtful whether to leave the city or not; in fact, nothing can be more critical than the situation of the Porte at this moment.

September.—The Russians have arrived within one hundred and twenty-five miles of Constantinople, and fears are entertained of the remaining Janissaries rising in revolt:—the sultan sees the danger in which he is placed, and is at length compelled to treat with Russia; submitting entirely to the demands of the emperor.

Much has been said by different writers respecting fires at Constantinople, and how subject that city is to this dreadful scourge; during my stay I was witness to one, the most extensive known for years, and I will endeavour to describe it.

There are few mansions, either in Constantinople, Pera, or Galata, that are built of any other materials than wood; the narrowness of the streets, the confused state of the Turkish buildings, communicating, as they do, one with the other, and many of them being suffered to go to decay, render them at all times liable to accidents by fire. Previous to the extermination of the Janissaries, Christian or Turk was never safe from the depredations committed by them; and when they could not plunder openly, they used to resort to their favourite expedient, that of firing some house; thus

it was that most of the extensive conflagrations, so frequent in this city, originated.

Early in the afternoon, on the twenty-sixth of July, a house, situated on the slope of the hill north of the Genoese tower, in Galata, took fire; or, as it was generally believed, had been set fire to by some of the disaffected Asiatic soldiers, who are continually strolling about the streets. The flames very soon communicated to the houses adjoining, and the brow of the hill in a short time became one complete blaze; the wind blowing briskly from the north, augmented the fury of the devouring element, and in half an hour a whole street was enveloped in flames. The consternation and wild cries of the inhabitants, Christians and Turks, were truly distressing—every one was seen laden with goods, either belonging to himself or his neighbour, and hurrying away with them towards a small Turkish cemetery, in the vicinity of the Genoese tower. Towards evening the wind and fire increased; by this time upwards of two hundred houses were completely consumed—the street leading from Pera to Galata was one scene of confusion and devastation. The shrieks of the women and children, who had barely time to save themselves, mingled with the crashes of houses falling in, and the crackling of the burning timber, had a most awful effect, particularly on me, who had never witnessed such a scene before. Volumes

of dense black smoke, intermixed with showers of sparks and firebrands, filled the air at one moment; at another, the flames burst forth with dazzling brightness, illuminating the country all round for an immense distance—thus, at intervals, we experienced the extremes of light and darkness. The fire, continuing its ravages, swept the brow of the Galata hill, threatening destruction to the tower and a handsome mosque in the vicinity. Day now began to close, but still the wind continued unabated; the fire at this time exhibited a most splendid but awful sight: it had swept away a whole street, and cleared every house on the hill behind the cemetery; its progress was now impeded by the groves of cypresses that adorn the tombs of the faithful. Hearing a general cry from the mob, my attention was attracted to the noble and long-standing monument of Genoese grandeur—the top of the tower was in flames, and the melting lead dropping from it in showers, like silver; the mosque fell next. On seeing their temple fall a prey to the devouring flames, the Mussulmen stood aghast, and, in despair, declaring, that "not only the Rus-"sians were defeating them and devastating their "country, but that Mahomet himself was against "them."

The Greeks appeared to enjoy the burning of the mosque, whilst I regretted that Galata should lose so noble a building. About nine a. m. the fire was at its height, and raged with terrific fury—

merchants were seen running in every direction, fearful for the safety of their warehouses—several streets are now in a blaze, and the wind wafting the flames down on the lower part of Galata, it is feared that the whole must be burnt to the water's edge—the shipping and even the opposite shore (Constantinople) are in imminent danger, the wind carrying the flames in that direction. About ten a. m. I went to the offices of an English merchant, in Galata; the whole neighbourhood was on fire—Armenians and Turks were hurrying with their valuables to the bank—men were busily employed in the streets and lanes digging up earth, which was made into mortar, and used for blocking up the windows and doors of the stone buildings, to prevent the flames communicating with the interior. A company of seamen, belonging to a French transport, landed an engine; and, by their exertions and directions, being favoured about midnight with a dead calm, the further progress of the fire was stopped, and it completely died away.

I visited the whole on the following day, and never before did I behold anything to equal the scene that presented itself: many individuals were digging in the places where they imagined their houses to have stood, and clearing away the still smoking ruins, in order that they might immediately commence rebuilding a new habitation. I passed by the Turkish cemetery, where an encampment of, I may safely say, upwards of two

hundred families, with whatever property they had been able to save, were closely huddled together.

On a moderate calculation, I understood that upwards of eleven hundred houses had been destroyed by this dreadful calamity; some of the merchants' warehouses suffered, and bales of muslin, broad cloth, and other articles, which had caught fire, were not extinguished until several days after the conflagration. I have not heard whether any lives were lost.

Having remained at Constantinople nearly four months, and perhaps at a period the most interesting in the annals of history, as regards the Ottoman empire, we left the capital on the nineteenth, in an open boat, and proceeded down the Marmora and the Dardanelles, with the intention of joining our fleet, which is now, together with the Russian admiral, lying off the island of Tenedos.

ITINERARY, &c.

Route from VIENNA *to* OLLMUTZ.

Post-Stations.	*posts.*	*hrs.*	*min.*
VIENNA to (1*)			
Stammersdorf† . .	1	1	40
Wolkersdorf . . .	1	1	50
Gunnersdorf . . .	1	1	30
Wilfersdorf	1	1	20
Poysdorf	1	1	30
Nicolsburg	1	1	15
Pohorlitz	1	1	40
Raygern	1	1	15
Brunn	1	1	20
Posartz	1	2	0
Wischau	1½	2	40
Prosnitz	1½	2	0
OLLMUTZ	1	1	20
TOTAL	14	21	20

* See Recapitulation of Route, p. 239.

† 1 Austrian post is equal to 2 German miles, or 10 English. The German mile is generally calculated as 4 English miles, but it is, in fact, equal to one French post, or 5 English miles.

From VIENNA to BRUNN, *9 posts*—*13 hours*, *20 min.*

From BRUNN to OLLMUTZ, *5 posts*—*8 hours.*

Route from OLLMUTZ *to* CRACOW.

Post-Stations.	*posts.*	*hrs.*	*min.*
OLLMUTZ to			
Ob Augez	1	1	30
Weiskerchen . . .	1½	2	10
Neu Tifchien . . .	1½	1	40
Freyberg	1	1	50
Friedek	1	1	10
Teschin	1½	1	30
Skotschau	1	1	20
Bielitz	1	1	30
Kenty	1	1	20
Wadowitze	1½	2	0
Izdebnik	1½	1	40
Moginlany	1	2	10
CRACOW . . . (2)	1	1	10
TOTAL	15½	21	0

From OLLMUTZ to FREYBERG, *5 posts*—*7 hours*, *10 min.*

From FREYBERG to BIELITZ, *4½ posts*—*5 hours*, *30 min.*

From BIELITZ to CRACOW, *6 posts*—*8 hours*, *20 min.*

From CRACOW *to* LIMBERG *and* BRODY.

Post-Stations.	*posts.*	*hrs.*	*min.*	
CRACOW to				
Wieliczka	1	1	10	
Gdow	1	1	40	
Bochnia	1	1	30	
Brzesko	1	1	45	
Woyniez	1	1	0	
Tarnow	1	1	15	
Pilzno . . . (3)	1½	1	30	
Dembiza	1	1	20	
Sedziszow	1½	1	40	
Rzeszow	1½	1	30	
Lanzut	1	1	10	From CRACOW to LANZUT, 12½ *posts*—15 *hours*, 30 *min.*
Przewrorsk	1½	1	20	
Jaroslaw	1	1	10	
Radymno	1	1	20	From LANZUT to RADYMNO. 3½ *posts*—3 *hours*, 50 *min.*
Przemis	1½	1	35	
Czechiny	1	1	20	
Moscisko	1	1	10	
Sandova Wisznia . .	1	1	15	
Grodek	1½	1	0	
Bartalow	1	1	10	
Limberg . . . (4)	1	1	15	From RADYMNO to LIMBERG, 8 *posts*—8 *hours*, 45 *min.*
Jaricgrew	2	2	20	
Brisk	2	2	40	
Zokolowka	2	2	30	
BRODY	2	2	10	From LIMBERG to BRODY, 8 *posts*—9 *hours*, 40 *min.*
TOTAL	32	37	45	

TOTAL distance from VIENNA to BRODY 61½ *posts*—80 *hours*, 5 *min.* —English miles, 615.

From BRODY *to* ODESSA.

Post-Stations.	*versts.*	*hrs.*	*min.*	
BRODY to				
Radzovillof* . . .	8	1	40	* One verst is equal to three quarters of an English mile.
Nicholshoff				
Proskurow (paid for 180)	145	29	0	
Midjiboji	16	1	40	From BRODY to LITITCHEW, 194 *versts*—35 *hours*, 50 *min.*
Lititchew	25	3	30	
	194	35	50	

From BRODY *to* ODESSA—*continued.*

Post-Stations.	*versts.*	*hrs.*	*min.*	
Dijakovitzi	22	2	5	
Litin	16½	1	15	
Winnitza	28½	2	10	
Voronovitza	22	2	0	
Niemrow	17	1	40	
Bratzlaw	18	1	35	
Toultchin	27	3	0	From LITITCHEW to TOULTCHIN, 151 *versts*—13 *hours*, 45 *min.*
Savans	27	2	15	
Skadrouzie	26	2	10	
Olgopol	21	2	10	
Pereyma	15	1	30	
Balta	20	2	0	
Lipetzkaya	23	2	10	
Viamskaya	25	2	0	
Yargorliz	23	2	10	
Novo Doubosar	20	1	40	From TOULTCHIN to NOVO DOUBOSAR, 200 *versts*—18 *hours*, 5 *min.*
Grigoriopol	21	1	50	
Malaeschti	22	1	40	
Tiraspol	15	0	44	
Kongourganskaya	28	3	0	
Giderina	25	2	15	
Dalmak	15	1	10	From NOVO DOUBOSAR to ODESSA, 141 *versts*—11 *hours*, 59 *min.*
ODESSA (5)	15	1	20	
TOTAL	686	79	39	English miles, 514½.

Route from ODESSA *to* SYMPHEROPOLE.

Post-Stations.	*versts.*	*hrs.*	*min.*	
ODESSA to Duphinka	18	1	25	
Troitskoye	28	2	40	
Krasnoi on the Brook Sasek	22	1	30	
Kozianof	27	2	10	
River Boug	12	2	0	
Nicholaef	5	0	30	
Kopanki	26	2	0	
Belozersk	16	1	15	
Kherson	17½	2	0	From ODESSA to KHERSON, 171½ *versts*—15 *hours*, 30 *min.*
	171½	15	30	

Route from ODESSA *to* SYMPHEROPOLE—*continued.*

Post-Stations.	*versts.*	*hrs.*	*min.*	
Liske	17	2	15	
Post-House	16	1	50	
Ditto	26	2	25	
Ditto	28	2	25	
Perikop	32	3	20	
Ushien	24	1	45	
Dyermen	21	2	20	
Aibar	24	2	15	
Ablan	22	1	40	
Sarabuze	22	1	0	From KHERSON to SYMPHEROPOLE, 251 *versts*—23 *hours*, 25 *min.*
SYMPHEROPOLE . (6)	19	2	10	
TOTAL	122½	38	55	English miles, 316¾.

Route from SYMPHEROPOLE *to* KERTCH.

Post-Stations.	*versts.*	*hrs.*	*min.*	
SYMPHEROPOLE to				
Zuiskaya	20	2	35	
Karasu Bazar . . .	21	1	0	
Brunditskaya . . .	21	1	25	
Soudak	41	5	50	
Karagoss	35	3	20	
Theodosia (Kaffa) . .	18	1	20	
Porpatch 22 Argin . 21 Sultanorka 22 KERTCH 23 } paid for	93	8	0	
TOTAL	249	23	30	English miles, 186¾.

Route from KERTCH *to* YEKATRINODAR.

Post-Stations.	*versts.*	*hrs.*	*min.*
Across the Euxine Bosphorus, or Straits of Yanikali to			
T'aman	28	2	30
Bughas	21	2	25
Teresa	15	1	30
	64	6	25

Route from KERTCH *to* YEKOTRINODAR—*continued.*

Post-Stations.	*versts.*	*hrs.*	*min.*	
Temruk	16	2	30	
Andrievskoi	25	2	40	
Petrovoskaya . 25 } Kopilskaya . . 18 }	43	4	20	
Kerrekubanskaya . .	25	2	25	
Mishatrovskaya . .	21	1	45	
Kopanskaya . . .	18	1	15	
YEKATRINODAR . . .	22	2	0	
TOTAL	234	23	20	English miles, 175½.

Route from YEKATRINODAR *to* YEKATRINOGRAD.

Post-Stations.	*versts.*	*hrs.*	*min.*	
YEKATRINODAR to Korsunkoye	28	2	15	
Redutkie	12	1	0	
Ustlabinskaya . . .	18	1	20	
Ladojskaya	25	2	0	
Kazanskaya	27	1	15	
Kavakaskaya . . .	22	2	30	
Timijbeskaya . . .	18	2	40	
Alexandrovskoye . .	12	1	15	
Novo Troytskoye . .	30	2	35	
Rojestvenskoye . . .	27	2	0	
Stavropole . . (7)	25	3	0	From YEKATRINODAR to STAVROPOLE, 244 *versts*—21 *hours*, 50 *min.*
Bespaghir	31	3	0	
Sergeivskoye . . .	27	2	45	
Kalinovka	17	2	30	
Alexandrovsk . . .	18½	1	30	
Sabli	27	3	0	
Alexandre	40	5	20	
Georgiesk	12	0	35	
Pavlovskaya	25	2	10	
Malkinskaya . . .	20	1	30	
Prockladinskaya . .	17	1	40	From STAVROPOLE to YEKATRINOGRAD, 252½ *versts*—25 *hours*, 40 *min.*
YEKATRINOGRAD (8)	18	1	40	
TOTAL	496½	47	30	English miles, 372¼.

Route from YEKATRINOGRAD *to* TIFLIS.

Post-Stations.	*versts.*	*hrs.*	*min.*	
YEKATRINOGRAD to the				
Redoubt	15	4	0	
Ditto	25	9	30	
Ditto	40	8	10	
Vladikavkaz . . .	35	7	0	
Lars	25	8	20	
Kazbek	16½	5	25	
Kobi	16½	3	40	
Kashaur	16	8	55	
Passananoor	20	5	0	
Ananoor	25	4	30	
Quarantine				
Dushet	10	1	40	
Khartiskarst . . .	24	3	20	
TIFLIS . . . (9)	26	5	20	
	294	74	50	English miles, 220½.

TOTAL distance from ODESSA to TIFLIS 1696 *versts*—308 *hours*, 5 *min.*—English miles, 1271¾.

Route from TIFLIS *to* ERIVAN.

Post-Stations.	*versts.*	*hrs.*	*min.*	
TIFLIS to				
Saganlouk	9	3	25	
Dummihussan . . .	23	6	15	
Karasarang	50	9	20	
Caravanserai . . .	18	5	10	
Dilijein	36	7	0	
Sadaghan	36	6	30	
Yelkowan	33	5	0	
ERIVAN	20	6	0	Seven Days' March.
TOTAL	225	48	40	English miles, 168¾.

Route from ERIVAN *to* TABREEZ, *by* MAKOU.

Menzil (HALTING-PLACE).	*versts.*	*day's march.*
ERIVAN to		
Bash Ghernie . . .	26	1
Aghbash	20	1
	46	2

From ERIVAN *to* TABREEZ *by* MAKOU—*continued.*

Menzil.	*versts.*	*day's march.*
Devilloo	26	1
Yinghya	42	1
Dhessa	26	1
Makou	26	1
Karavina	36	1
Karazendan	40	1
Ifrogli	36	1
Khooshserai	40	1
Sophian	36	1
TABREEZ . . . (10)	26	1
TOTAL	380	12

English miles, 285.

Route from TABREEZ *to* TEHRAN.

Menzil.	*agach.*	*hrs.*	*min.*
TABREEZ to			
Sidebad*	6	7	30
Tickmedash	6	10	0
Karcima	6	8	0
Turkomanchi . . .	$5\frac{1}{10}$	7	30
Miana	6	7	30
Sarchan	6	6	40
Nickbei	6	7	30
Zinjan	6	8	40
Sultania	6	6	30
Kurumdara			
Abhar	8	8	0
Siahdam	7	8	0
Casvin	4	6	30
Suffer Kajar			
Ushalak	13	15	0
Salamoni	1	1	0
TEHRAN	$5\frac{1}{2}$	7	0
TOTAL	92	115	20

* One *agach* is equal to about four English miles.

English miles, 368.

Route from TEHRAN *back to* TABREEZ, *by way of* HAMUDAN, KIRMANSHAH, *and* SENNA.

Menzil.	*agach.*	*hrs.*	*min.*	
TEHRAN to				
Batchabad	4	5	30	
Peek	8	9	0	
Kusguk	8	7	40	
Nerravat	9	9	0	
Karati	7	9	40	
Ionti	5	6	10	
Hamudan . . (11)	11	15	30	From TEHRAN to HAMUDAN 52 *agach*—62 *hours*, 30 *min.*
Sahadabad	6	8	0	English miles, 208.
Kangavar	4	5	0	
Besitoon	8	10	0	
Kirmanshah by Tackt-i-Bostan . . (12)	6	7	0	
Zelli-Kalla	6½	9	0	
Village	8	9	0	
Senna . . . . (13)	11	13	0	From HAMUDAN to SENNA 49½ *agach*—61 *hours.*
Backala	6	7	30	English miles, 198.
Dewanderrah . . .	6	8	0	
Artack	7	8	30	
Kultapa	5	7	0	
Sian Kala	9	11	0	
Mamajook.				
Maraga	9	12	0	
Deygurgan	8½	10	30	
TABREEZ	5	4	30	From SENNA to TABREEZ, 55½ *agach*—69 *hours.*
TOTAL	157	192	30	English miles, 222.

Route from TABREEZ *to* KHOYE.

Menzil.	*agach.*	*hrs.*	*min.*	
TABREEZ to				
Ali-Shah	5	4	10	
Kuzalkan	4	3	0	
Tasi	4	8	0	
Almanserai	4			
KHOYE . . . (14)	5½	5	30	
TOTAL	22½	20	40	English miles, 90.

Route from KHOYE *to* VAN, *by* KOSHAB.

Menzil.	*Turkish hours.*	*hrs.*	*min.*	*miles.*
KHOYE* to Koordish Village	12	10	0	38
Cattura . . .	2	1	30	8
Fort Koshab . .	7	5	0	24
VAN	10	8	0	30
TOTAL	31	24	30	100

* Here we commenced the Turkish manner of travelling; they reckon the distances by time, travelling at a camel's pace, about 3½ to 3¾ English miles an hour.

Three Days' March.

Route from VAN *to* ARZEROOM.

Post-Stations.	*Turkish hours.*	*hrs.*	*min.*	*miles.*
VAN to Djanik	8	6	0	25
Ardjich . . .	12	9	0	36
Nouchvan Tach Koun . .	11	9	0	36
Lata Yangali . . .	11	9	0	38
Armenian Village Kanous Kouremai	10	9	0	34
Kooli	8	6	0	22
Hassan Kalla . .	12	10	0	38
ARZEROOM (15)	6	5	0	20
TOTAL	78	63	0	249

Seven Days' March.

Route from ARZEROOM *to* CONSTANTINOPLE.

Post-Stations.	*Turkish hours.*	*hrs.*	*min.*	*miles.*
ARZEROOM to Elija Ashkala (on the Euphrates). Khaun-shoo-Ghain	9	6	30	35
Kara-Koulak . .	13	10	50	36
Kalket	9½	7	30	38
Shayran . . .	3½	2	45	16
	35	27	15	125

From ARZEROOM *to* CONSTANTINOPLE—*continued.*

Post-Stations.	*Turkish hours.*	*hrs.*	*min.*	*miles.*	
Village					
Kara-Hissar . .	16	12	15	36	
Koyla-Hissar . .	11	8	0	30	
Village . . .		5	15		
Iss-Cassar . . .	14	9	15	36	
Niksar . . (16)	8	6	0	25	From ARZEROOM to TOKAT, 76 *hours*—282 *miles.*
Tokat . . (17)	9	8	0	30	
Turkal	9	6	0	27	
Guard-House					
Amassia . . .	12	7	10	30	
Massivan . . .	9	4	45	27	
Hadji					
Osmanjook . .	9	8	0	36	
Village					
Hadji-Humza .	8	4	30	25	
Tosia	9	5	45	28	
Kajar-Sir . . .	6½	5	30	30	
Kara-Jorem . .	7	4	15	20	
Kara-Julár . .	4	1	40	12	
Chirkiss . . .		2	30		
Hummumloo . .	12	6	10	24	
Garidi	7	5	10	20	
Boli	12	6	0	36	
Dooz-chi . . .	12	6	15	24	
Khaun-Dag . .	11	7	15	25	
Sabanja . . .	11	6	0	30	
Is-Nikmid . .	6	4	30	18	
Herika					
Gaybaissa . . .	9	5	30	30	
Kartal					
Scutari	9	6	0	28	From TOKAT to CONSTANTINOPLE, 103 *hours*, 15 *min.*—472 *miles.*
CONSTANTINOPLE (18)		0	20	2	
TOTAL	255½	179	15	754	

Total from TABREEZ to CONSTANTINOPLE 394½ Turkish hours—actual time, 287 hours, 25 minutes—1193 English miles—23 days on journey (exclusive of stoppages). Upon a fair calculation, however, the distance from TABREEZ to CONSTANTINOPLE may be computed at 1300 miles.

RECAPITULATION.

I.

To Constantinople by Pest, Temeswar, Hermanstadt, Bucharest, and Shumla*.

Names of Towns. From Vienna to	*Posts.*
Schwegat	1
Fishament	1
Riegelsbrunn	1
Hoemburg	1
Kittsee	1
Ragendorff	1
Wieselborg	1
Hochstrass	1½
Raab*	1
From Vienna to Raab 95 *English Miles.*	9½
From Raab to	
Göngo	1
Aaes	1
Cormon	1
Nesmühl	1½
Neudorf	1
Derogh	1
Vorsowar	1½
Ofen (Pest)	1½
From Raab to Pest 92½ *English Miles.*	9½
From Ofen (Pest) to	
Soroskar	1
Oesa	1
Inaez	1
	3

Names of Towns. From Pest *continued.*	*Posts.*
Oerkenny	1
Foldeak	1
Kelskemet	1
Paka	1
Feleygehaza	1
Petery	1
Kistelleck	1
Sztmaez	1
Szegedin	1
Horgoss	1½
Kleinkan	1
Mokren	1½
Comlos	1
Csadat	1
Klein Petch	1½
Temeswar	1½
From Pest to Temeswar 202½ *English Miles.*	20½
From Temeswar to	
Rekas	2
Kisetto	1
Lugos	1
Boskur	1½
Fasect	1
Kossowar	1
Kosset	1
Dobra	1
Lesnech	1
Deva	1
Szaswarrow	1½
Siboth	1
Muhlenbach	1½
Reismarkt	1½
Magh	1
Hermanstadt	1
From Temeswar to Hermanstadt 185 *English Miles.*	18½

* See Map—General Route from Vienna to Constantinople.

Names of Towns. From HERMANSTADT to	*Posts.*
Rothenthrum	1½
Lazaretto	1
Kinnin	1
Perikan	1½
Satatroick	1½
Kurté d'Argish	2
Munichest	1
Petesti	1
Korchintof	1
Gagest	1¾
Maranches	1½
Florest	1½
Bollentina	1
BUCHAREST	3
From HERMANSTADT to BUCHAREST	20¼

202½ *English Miles.*

	hrs.	*min.*
VIDRA	7	0
Guastanet	2	0
Pietri	1	0
Tya	2	15
Giurgevo	9	10
Rasgratz	2	40
Shumla		
Dragolen	8	40
Chila Kavack	6	15
Carnabat	1	15
Faki	4	45
Kirk Issa	4	30
Burgas	12	15
Tchorlu	3	45
Buados	9	15
CONSTANTINOPLE	10	15
	65	0

Or about 350 *English Miles.*

Total distance from VIENNA to CONSTANTINOPLE, 1127½ British miles.

	Posts.
To CONSTANTINOPLE, by Belgrade, Nissa, Sophia, and Philippopoli*	
To Belgrade	45
From Ditto to Constantinople	48

Or 183½ *Hours.*
Total in *English Miles* 930.

Names of Towns.	*Posts.*	*Miles.*
PRAGUE	21	210
Carlsbad	8½	85
Fiume	33	330
Trieste	35½	555
By Inspruch and Trent, to Milan	69½	695
Toeplitz	27	270
Warsaw	55¾	557½
By Dresden, to Berlin	41¾	417½

II.

CRACOW		
To Breslau	18¼	182½
Warsaw	25	250
Berlin	41	410

III.

PILZNO		
To Keschau	13	130
Buda or Peste	31	310
Peterwarden	48	480
Belgrade	55	550

IV.

LIMBERG		
To Czernowiez	17½	175
Bistriz	37½	375
By Yassy to ODESSA.		430

V.

ODESSA	*Versts.*	*Miles.*
To Varna *(about)*	400	300
Bucharest *(about)*	350	262½
By Moscow to St. Petersburg	2050	1537½
By Kiev to St. Petersburg	1850	1387½

* See Map—Courier's Route from VIENNA to CONSTANTINOPLE.

VI.

SYMPHEROPOLE	*Versts.*	*Miles.*
To SEVASTOPOL . .	40	30

VII.

STAVROPOLE		
To TCHERKASK . .	270	202½

VIII.

YEKATRINOGRAD,
By MOZDOK and KIZLAR

To ASTRAKAN . .	524	393

IX.

TIFLIS,
By GORI SOURAM, and KOOTAIS

To POTI	265	198½
Redoubt Kali . . .	260	195
Erivan	160	120
St. Petersburg . .	2628	1971
Arzeroom	360	270
Kars	180	135
Bakou	380	285

X.

TABREEZ,
By SULTANIA, KOM, ISPHAHAN, SHIRAZ, and KHIST, to BUSHIRE (on the Persian Gulf)

	English Miles.
To Sultania	214
Hyo	20
Ziabad	22
Haghen Khan	19
Killah Sekzabad	12
Daring	48
Sarah	19
Kom	40
Sire Sin, Caravanserai at .	39
Khoy-Shan	27
Khourandust	11
Hanjim	12
Nuthums	12
Serdahen	18
Shirezabad	32
Isphahan	13
Kromah	12
Tantkoon	17
Tanghorn	19
Isfugan	26
Kishlac	32
Sheemervoni	19
Kirshshazard	18
Aspas	18
Ounjim	15
Mangin	16
Ruins of Persepolis . . .	31
Zergoon	15
Shiraz	14
Khana Xeniore, Caravanserai at	27
Desturgen	12
Kezroom	18
(Ruins of Shapoor, eight miles S. E. of this town.)	
Karnorick	21
Khist	11
Dallky	15
Horasgoon	12
Ali Changee	24
BUSHIRE	20
TOTAL from TABREEZ to BUSHIRE . . .	970
From BUSHIRE to BOMBAY, fifteen days' sail, or about	1450
Across the Gulf to BUSSORA, about	260

XI.

HAMUDAN

To KASHAN	200

XII.

KIRMANSHAH
To BAGDAD.

Caravanserai at Mahadesht .	20
Severeh	

	English Miles.
KIRMANSHAH—*continued.*	
Harounabad	24
Caravanserai at Karund . .	20
Shah's-adda Khaun . . .	16
(Enter the Pashalick of Bagdad.)	
Pool-I-zohaub (Khan) . .	20
Kesra Shirene	20
Kanaku	20
Kizzil Robat	20
Shara-Khaun	20
Bacoubi	32
Khaun	12
BAGDAD	20
TOTAL	244
From Ditto to Ruins of BABYLON . . . . *(about)*	50
Beyond Ditto to BIRS NIMROOD (Tower of Babel) *(about)*	15
To BUSSORA . . . *(about)*	270
From thence to the Entrance of the Persian Gulf . . .	80

XIII.

SENNA

To MOSSUL (NINEVEH) on Tigris	160

XIV.

KHOYE

To Erivan	130
BAIAZEED	110

XV.

ARZEROOM

To Trebezond,	Baiboot *(about)*	160
Kars	*(about)*	120
Tiflis	*(about)*	260
Constantinople . .	*(about)*	800

XVI.

NIKSAR to SAMSOON	English Miles.
To Harrack	22
Laddick	35
Labback	35
SAMSOON	28
TOTAL	120

XVII.

TOKAT

By SIVAS, ISO, OGLOU, and DIARBEKIR	
To MOSSUL	450

XVIII.

CONSTANTINOPLE

By ADRIANOPLE, GHINSTENDIL, MORAVA, NOVI BAZAAR, BOSNA SERAI, TRAWNIK, CARLSTADT, & LAYBACH	
To TRIESTE . . . *(about)*	1250
Smyrna . . . . *(about)*	270
By Nice, Kara Hissar, Adna Aleppo, and Il-coum to Hellah (and Ruins of Babylon) . . . *(about)*	1000
To the Mouth of the Dardanelles	160
The Entrance of the Black Sea . . . . . *(about)*	20
By Shumla, Bucharest, Bouzio, Bialat, Yassy, Marmonitza, and Stannislovo*, to LIMBERG . . . *(about)*	750

* See Map—Route from LIMBERG to CONSTANTINOPLE.

FINIS.

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